IMPROVED FORMULA

Running Down THE BACK Streets

2

Saturday's Heroes?

Inside This Issue: The Last Resort/Warriors / The Pride / Scam / Steve Goodman / Skinheads Don't Fear / Football Gubbins & Other Stuff.

IT WAS A MARLON BRANDO MORNING....

May 1996

Alright there our kid?

Aside from pleasing meself, all the positive feedback we received to issue 1 was nice to have, so ta to you all for that. The style we used for the Business interview - i.e. done as a taped conversation rather than written down questions and answers sent through the post - seemed particularly popular, as that way it's possible to go into a lot more detail than you normally get with fanzine interviews, so hopefully in each issue I'll try and do at least one interview that way. This issue's talk is with Arthur Kay, so we hope you enjoy that one as much.

For anyone who didn't get issue 1, there are still some copies left, and it includes an interview with The Business plus a live report from their gig at Highbury Garage, interviews with Condemned 84 and Crashed Out, and live reviews of Rough Kutz, Section 5, Crashed Out, Bad Manners and Judge Dread.

The way it's going so far is that the zine will come out every 3-4 months, so expect no.3 around September/October time. The price for each issue is £1 (or 4x25p stamps) plus an SAE in the U.K.

Overseas prices are: EUROPE - £2 or US$3
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These overseas prices include postage. Please don't send any non-American dollars. Slightly cheaper wholesale prices are available for 10 copies or more.

We don't do subscriptions as such, but if you send money for issue 3 in advance then you'll be sent a copy as soon as it's out. Please remember to say which issue you're sending for - some people have been sending for issue 2 and forgetting to say so, which is confusing as we're still getting orders for issue 1 at the same time.

I don't really want to get into a long thanks list every issue, but seeing as how a few people have been especially supportive there'll be a roll call of sorts next issue. For now, thanks to everyone who helps in some way or other, particularly our contributors and distributors!

Til next time then, mine's a Tomas Brolin (just a half, then I'll be off). Cheers.

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A PRODUCT OF YOUR SOCIETY

(Front cover: Brighton fans 'protest' at the sale of their ground)

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NEWSDESK

I didn't think there'd been all that much happening since issue 1, until I actually sat down to write it out. The first thing you need to know is that as predicted last issue the 'Bilko & Saxby' version Last Resort have changed their name to the Warriors, a name previously used of course on the 'Oi! Oi! That's Yer Lot' compilation LP. The next thing you need to know is how good their LP is. -Very. And given that its sound is a way removed from 'Skinhead Anthems' it's probably for the best. Roi Pearce has got his own 'Last Resort' band together, what they sound like I haven't a clue but would guess it's nothing like the original Resort either. The Business have returned from a month long tour of America, the warm-up date for which was as support to Special Duties in Colchester on 13th January, which makes two British gigs in the space of three months! News from 'Oi! The Hotline' (that's Steve Whale, not an 0800 number, - yet) is that the single has been selling extremely fast - the 7" doing 600 copies in the first two days! - and is practically unobtainable now in this country. Some sort of re-issue for the UK is planned, hopefully to coincide with a few more British dates which, if it comes off (the 'Pigs Might Fly' tour?), should see Crashed Out sorted with the support slot. Gary Fielding's book on the band at last has a definite release date (May 10th), so should be out by the time you read this. Also gigging on these shores since the last issue of RDTBS, The Oppressed did the much rumoured 'final' gig to a home crowd in Cardiff on March 10th (don't be surprised if a band called CF3 materialise in the future tho'), along with the Warriors. Both bands were filmed, and there should be a release on Visionary sometime. Barn End also filmed the Warriors back when they were known as the Last Resort in January at the 'come-back' show in Belgium, for possible future release. Then the Warriors played again on 18th April, this time in Canterbury. Turn out was pretty good with quite a few people hopping over the channel to catch it. Crashed Out's debut LP is scheduled for release on Hammer Records sometime this year, and is provisionally called 'Crash Street Kids' ! Worth it for the title alone. Last I heard from Condemned 84 was they were planning on recording a new video in June. Still no firm news of any showbiz concerts tho'. Cock Sparrer played in Munich in Germany on the 23rd March. British dates look highly unlikely to say the least for the foreseeable future, so you'll have to get on your bike (or on your ferry, to be more exact) if you want to see them play live. Top popsters the Woodhouse Rejects (as mentioned in issue 1) have splittttt... though I heard the Ferrymen have got a record deal (a German label I think). Rough Kutz are recording material, possibly for an album, and if it can capture the atmosphere of their live shows it'll be a corker.

Currently running on most ITV regions is Garry's "Bushell On The Box" (with a peak time slot of about 2 O'Clock in the morning usually), mostly shite, but highlights so far are:- the photo of Gal & Buster Bloodvessel on his front room wall, asking Dale Winton if the compilation CD he was promoting had any Gonads on, and one bizarre show which had not only Frankie Flame singing on, but also Chas & Dave doing an abridged cover of the Warriors song "Gary Bushell"! Meanwhile on Radio 1 I overheard Wattie of the Exploited involved in possibly the shortest ever radio interview in history, promoting tracks from their new LP 'Beat The Bastards', and then Special Duties new single "Mutt" was played on 'The Evening Session', admittedly 'cos they come from Colchester, which is the same hometown as the show's presenter, Steve Lamacq. So my advice to any Oi! bands that want playing is send in yer record to Steve Lamacq and pretend you're from Colchester. Simple! If anyone gives a flying arse, Madness are doing another 'Madstock' gig in London towards the end of June (22nd? I couldn't be bothered noting down the exact date). As usual

the carefully chosen support bands should appeal to the majority of Madness fans absolutely not at all.

Skinhead Fashion Spot A few years ago the flight-jacket-skinhead look became popular with so-called 'gay skins', well thankfully that seems to have all but died out, but has now been replaced by...ravers in flight jackets! Round our way at the moment every 3rd person you see has one, easily identifiable though as nearly all have brand names or club names like Technics or Ark embroidered on the back, and at £80 a throw someone's making a fortune! Occasionally I find myself in a shopping centre with one of those awkward people who insist on dragging you round clothes shops all afternoon against your will (they're called girls), anyway on one such occasion recently it lead me to the discovery that Top Shop/Top Man have started selling Fred Perry's. They weigh in at £30 and bizarrely come in small/medium/large sizes, rather than the chest-measured-in-inches size you would expect. Moving swiftly on, in March the Daily Mail newspaper reported that The Pope had taken to wearing Doc Marten boots, and was so impressed with them that he'd ordered a further 100 pairs to kit out the Swiss Guard, plus some white Doc Marten brogues for himself. A prize is on offer to the first person to send us a photo of some Doc booted up nuns!
Well that's the end of the fashion spot. Hopefully it won't be a regular feature. (Brentford Nylons mate.)

Compact Discs on the way out? Well after several attempts (DAT, DCC, CDR, Minidisc, Laserdisc, etc.) it looks like the format that could kick CD into touch has finally arrived. It's much superior in sound quality, does away with the possibility of 'unplayable' discs which skip all over the place for no reason, and you don't need to colour the edges in with one of those green pens to get the best out of it either. The name of that format is VINYL, and some of our favourite record labels have already rushed ahead and put it to the test. Captain Oi! has released the Last Resort's 'Skinhead Anthems' on vinyl, together with a lyric sheet, while Step One have followed suit with must-own Warriors LP 'The Full Monty', which comes in a numbered limited edition of 1250. Meanwhile Cherry Red have issued both Blitz's 'Voice Of A Generation' and Peter & The Test Tube Babies' 'Pissed And Proud' on shiny black plastic. Soon to come are Anti-Social's 'Battle Scarred Skinheads', and 'Oi! The Rarities Vol.1' and 'Oi! The New Breed Vol.2' collections. And not to be left out, Dojo have announced details of Cockney Rejects and 4-Skins 'Best Of's,'The Best Of Oi! Vol.1' and The Exploited's 'Punks Not Dead', all forthcoming on vinyl, and all coming with a free 7". To complicate things further comes more news of some 7" vinyl discs (also to be known as 'singles'), like various One Way System 7"s, and Visionary weighing in with platters that matter by the Test Tube Babies ("Banned From The Pubs") and the Partisans ("17 Years Of Hell"). Forward thinking mail order supermarket One Stop will be stocking most, if not all, of these recordings. Finally for now, Frankie Flame releases a single on the old format (compact disc) entitled "Inferno", which I'm told features Andy Kline and Steve Whale (whoever they may be).

Sad Old Punks Day Out Possibilities..

Aside from the Sadstock, sorry 'Madstock' mentioned earlier, on the weekend of May 31st/June 1st Special Duties and English Dogs will be in Stoke Newington as the main attractions of two most-of-the-dayers and a punx picnic. Hopefully it'll all be over by the time you read this. At the end of the summer on the weekend of August 9-11, Blackpool is the somewhat unlikely location for an event originally billed as the 'History Of Punk', and which now seems to have been re-titled 'Holidays In The Sun'. It features headliners The Damned (Vanian & Sensible version, providing Vanian's train arrives on time), X-Ray Spex, Sham 69, as well as a 'one-off reformation' (so presumably that means they'll be on every all-dayer punk bill for the next umpteen years) of Slaughter & The Dogs, and the likes of Zounds and Alternative TV, but surely the main highlight of the weekend for everyone will be the appearance of my all-time idols Splodgenessabounds, on the offchance they actually turn up of course.

Then there's the Sex Pistols bash in the tent at Finsbury Park on June 23rd, where at least they've had the decency to line up a couple of supports that people might actually be interested in.
I'll be there, but I won't actually be watching the gig as I've landed the job of loading up all the sacks of cash into John Lydon's car, then I have to wait round the back with the engine running in anticipation of a quick getaway once the audience realise they're only playing a set of unrehearsed Clash covers. Remember Public Image's New York Riot Show? It's actually all Malcolm's idea, but they're pretending he's got nothing to do with it incase people cotton on. Or is that Phoenix?
Most definitely not sad-old-punks related, Paul of 'The Skinhead' fanzine has been trying to plan a Ska-fest in the North East, but the response from bands has been disappointing to say the least, so he'd still like to hear from any more bands interested in playing at such an event. (Address listed in zine reviews section.) It doesn't look like you're ever gonna get on the Madness bill, so you might as well give events like that a go, eh?
Bad Manners are on tour throughout June, with a couple of gigs in July, and a new single (a cover of "Black Night") due out on July 8th. Buster also made page 3 of The Sun on Friday May 3rd, on account of 'Fatty Towers', the new hotel to cater for larger customers that he's due to open in Margate. Also oot 'n' aboot in the near future are clockwork funsters Major Accident, the only dates I've seen are Bradford Rio on the 26th of July and the Blackpool weekender, but no doubt there will be others elsewhere.
Sham 69 were due to make an appearance on The Selina Scott Show on satellite on May 27th. They have a new single out called "Sarah" which is about that 13 year old British lass who married a Turkish waiter. A clip of the video was played on The Big Breakfast and didn't look too thrilling to me.
Anyone in the Bradford area might be interested to know that in the T.V. Heaven section at the National Museum Of Photography Film & Television you can go and watch (free of charge) 'Scum', 'Oi! For England' (rubbish, despite its title), 'Made In Britain' (brilliant), stacks of other stuff of which the episode of music show 'Revolver' is recommended and the one of 'Bullseye' um, isn't. The Revolver tape also has unadvertised the full, uncensored, Sex Pistols versus Bill Grundy swearfest tagged on the end of it, and with such clear sound that you can actually hear Steve Jones' leather trousers creaking!
Finally, a bit of late news, Wes Branson, bass player in U.S. band Max Resist, was killed in a car crash on March 18th. A compilation memorial CD is being put out, for more details write to: P.O.Box 81371, Rochester, MI 48308, USA.

"Great news: the Sex Pistols are back together"

SKINHEADS DON'T FEAR Interview

'Skinheads Don't Fear' is definitely one of the most interesting zines around, focusing mainly on the skinhead cult rather than the bands and the music, making it somewhat unique among skinzines at the moment. I thought it would be good to send down a few questions and find out more about Arfur who is the zine's main editor. Here's what he had to say for himself.....

NOT THE MOST INVENTIVE OF OPENING QUESTIONS, BUT WHEN DID YOU FIRST TURN SKINHEAD?
I was 9 or 10 when I first had my hair cropped and wore kids DM's and Fred Perrys. I copied all the older blokes from this area although I obviously didn't know too much about the skinhead cult at that age.

WHAT WAS THE REASON BEHIND THIS (I.E. WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO IT)?
I was really into Madness and Bad Manners and 2-Tone, and from what pictures I'd seen, most of the people at gigs were skinheads and I liked the clothes and the image.

HAVE YOU BEEN A SKINHEAD EVER SINCE? ALSO, HAD YOU EVER BEEN ANYTHING ELSE SUCH AS MOD OR PUNK BEFOREHAND?
No, I grew my hair into a flat-top when I was about 14, but still wore similar clothes and still listened to the music. I remember me and a mate turning Punk for about two days(!) after watching 'The Great Rock'N' Roll Swindle', but I didn't like the scruffiness of Punk and most of the Mods I'd seen were posers and I couldn't stand them!

WHAT MUSIC WERE YOU INTO AT THE TIME YOU FIRST TURNED SKIN AND HOW HAS THAT DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS? HAVE YOU GOT A FAVOURITE(S) SKIN-RELATED TRACK?
As I said in Q.2, Madness were the most influencial band and I still rate Bad Manners now. 2-Tone was really good as well, especially the "Too Much Too Young" EP which introduced me to Skinhead Reggae by covering "Liquidator",

"Skinhead Moonstomp", etc. There are too many tracks to list that I would call favourites.

DO YOU RATE ANY NEW-ISH BANDS THESE DAYS (EITHER LIVE OR ON RECORD), IF SO WHICH ONES?
To be honest I don't go to many gigs these days, and the ones I do go to are usually to see people like Laurel Aitken or Judge Dread, not exactly new acts to say the least! Having said that, in 1989-90 I used to love The Riffs, The Hotknives and The Loafers, and I would still go and see The Business and Cock Sparrer now if they did gigs in England.

AS FAR AS I'M AWARE, 'SKINHEADS DON'T FEAR' IS THE ONLY CURRENT SKINZINE WHICH FOCUSSES ON THE CULT RATHER THAN THE MUSIC. WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO ADOPT THIS APPROACH, AND DOES IT MAKE IT HARDER TO FIND ARTICLES TO WRITE ABOUT? FOR EXAMPLE, IT MUST BE DIFFICULT TO FIND 'ORIGINAL' SKINS TO GET INFORMATION FROM.
At last, a plug for the fanzine! We started S.D.F. because there wasn't any really outstanding fanzines around at the time. Most were just full of the same old reviews from the same old bands. We thought that a fanzine covering the cult rather than just the music would be a refreshing change. Although trying to find new and interesting articles is quite hard considering what has already been written about skinheads in other zines and books. Original skinheads? Well in London at least, there are still quite a few that go to Reggae do's and also when there's a few of us in a pub there always seems to be someone that used to be a skinhead and sees us and comes over for a chat. Unfortunately this also attracts ex-glue sniffers with 'I am clever!' tattooed on their forehead, these types we usually don't ask for articles!
Whilst on the subject of S.D.F., we'd like to take this opportunity to apologise to anyone who has sent off for issue 6 and are still waiting to hear from us. We will <u>definitely</u> be continuing with S.D.F. and issue 6 will be out soon.

IS THERE ANY PARTICULAR ASPECT YOU'VE WANTED TO COVER OR WRITE ABOUT BUT BECAUSE IT'S SO FAR IN THE PAST YOU CAN'T GET THE INFO YOU WANT?
No!

WHICH OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC'S COMMON MISINFORMED PREJUDICES REGARDING SKINHEADS DO YOU FIND MOST ANNOYING?
I'm not bothered about what the general public think about skinheads. The thing that bothers me more is queers dressing up as skinheads, this I can't tolerate.

FROM YOUR OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, HAVE YOU BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST MUCH (E.G. REFUSED ENTRY TO SOMEWHERE) PURELY FOR BEING A 'SKINHEAD'?
When the L.S.C. (London Skinhead Corporation) used to drink in the West End, especially in the summer, we were regularly turned away from pubs because we were skinheads, now we drink in various parts of London where we know it's O.K. to get served. It seems funny now when you see casual geezers wearing checked button downs, Levis and Harringtons with cropped hair in their hundreds, in trendy boozers drinking the night away, whilst a couple of years earlier we were similarly dressed yet were still turned away at the door! How fashions change....

SINCE THE ORIGINAL SKINHEAD IDEALS OF THE LATE 1960s, THE CULT HAS SPREAD IN VARIOUS FORMS ACROSS THE GLOBE. A LOT OF SKINS HAVE DIFFERENT IDEAS AS TO WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A SKINHEAD, AND WHAT BEING A SKINHEAD INVOLVES. ARE THERE ANY GROUPS IN PARTICULAR, OR ANY 'HABITS' (DRESS OR BEHAVIOUR) WHICH YOU THINK ARE MISSING THE POINT OR DISLIKE ESPECIALLY?
The majority of foreign skinheads that I have met seem to only believe what they read in the Spirit Of 69, etc., they take what is written as 'the be all and end all' of skinheadism. For example, look at the 'World Of Skinhead'

programme, most of the Yanks on that were fucking idiots! I could honestly count on one hand the number of people on that show that I'd have any respect for. This may sound snobby but I've suffered enough fools over the years and if people don't like my attitude.. tough! Dresswise, I personally choose to wear original clothes or clothes as near to the original style as possible. But what other people wear is up to them, 'cos not everyone wants to hunt out 60s clothes and as long as they look smart it's O.K. with me. I remember a few years ago that what we called the 'bonehead' look was really popular in London and in my eyes this style of dress was more suited to a paramilitary group than the skinhead cult. Nowadays the only boneheads you see tend to be foreigners shopping in London or bandits trying to look macho or Plymouth or Fulham supporters!

HOW COME "SKINHEAD MOONSTOMP" GETS PLAYED BEFORE BRENTFORD GAMES?
If I told you how we managed that then every skinhead would be using our methods to corrupt D.J.'s at football grounds all over the country, and we couldn't have that now could we?!

FINALLY, IS THERE OWT ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO ADD?
I'd like to thank everyone that has bought 'Skinheads Don't Fear' over the last couple of years, and thanks to all contributors and mates that have (and still do) help out. We will return, bigger and better! So keep 'em peeled. Cheers for doing the interview Tim and cheers to the Brentford F.C. Skinheads and the London Skinhead Corporation. All the best. ARFUR.

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Thanks to Arfur for taking the time out to answer my questions - and hopefully it'll get you a few new readers mate! Although Skinheads Don't Fear isn't the most high profile of zines it's an essential read in my book, so if you've never seen it before I suggest you send £1+ SAE to the address below & ask for their latest issue:-

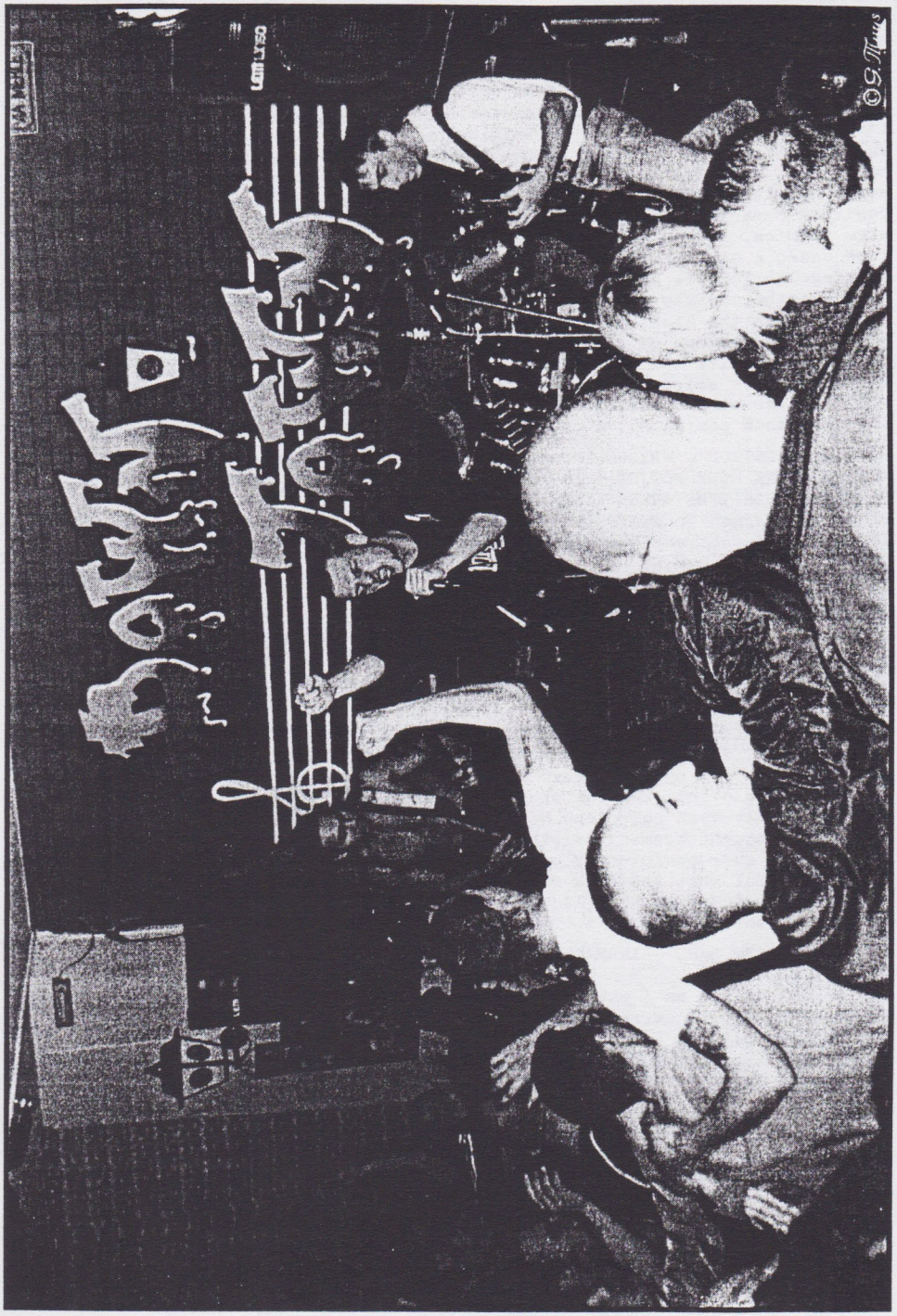
Arfur, 26 Hawkins Way, Wokingham, Berks, RG11 1UW.

Interview THE PRIDE

After mentioning last issue that I'd yet to hear The Pride, Bieze their manager wrote for a copy of the zine, so rather than taking his hard earned in return I got him to do me a tape of them, and was impressed enough to want to feature them this time. They come from Belgium, but sing in English, their music is melodic, singalong Oi! style, and their popularity seems to be growing with last year's 'No Holding Back' LP getting rave reviews all over the place. Since then they've appeared on the 'Voice Of The Street' compilation CD, and have just released a new 7" EP entitled 'The History Of', which is two new Pride tracks and two songs from their days as The Mushrooms. I'll do a full discography at the end, but here's the interview, conducted via that man Bieze.

PLEASE TELL ME THE LINE UP OF THE PRIDE (WHO PLAYS WHAT/WHO WRITES THE SONGS, ETC.) AND A BRIEF BACKGROUND TO THE GROUP (HOW LONG YOU'VE BEEN GOING, WHAT GIGS YOU'VE DONE, HOW YOUR RECORD DEAL CAME ABOUT, ETC.). - ALSO WHY DID YOU CHOOSE THE NAME "THE PRIDE"?

Around 1986 Steve-vocals and guitar, Chris-bass, John-lead guitar, and Schimmel-drums started a punk rock band called The Mushrooms. At first it was for the fun of it all, later they carried on where other local bands had left off, playing almost every weekend they got well known and were asked several times as support for the much bigger bands like the UK Subs, Splodge, Red Alert, Blitz and others. It was at those gigs the band came in contact with the Belgian skinhead movement, a scene, a cult they felt they belonged to and after a while their uptempo punk sound got changed into the more melodic Oi! But first they recorded the 'Youth Of Today' EP, to thank all those who had followed them through the years. There was a lot of protest from the hard punks who saw the change as an act of traitors! For John it was also the end because he had got the offer to join a speedmetal outfit! So The Mushrooms kept quiet for a while and worked on new material, and it was 1993 when they took the stage by storm supporting Holland's finest The Magnificent and the Italian Klasse Kriminale. There they came to the attention of Bieze (who has been into the skinhead thing since 1980). He would take the band further, he became the manager. Gigs followed in a high tempo, the best one being the Live & Loud concert with Close Shave. But at one of the bands gigs, a pub where they played got under attack by immigrants who saw a threat in the skinhead presence in their part of the city. Hell broke loose, and people got injured during the fights. Like it is in all countries the skinheads got the blame, and above all the band got marked as being fascist, racist, and whatever else they could think of. It was all front cover news and it even got on the T.V. (SOUND FAMILIAR? - ED) The Mushrooms became Public Enemy Number One and the band decided to call it a day. But after a few weeks of silence the lads decided to start again, saying they did not need all that crap, it was all a pack of lies anyway... (continued overleaf)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(The Pride continued...)
They had to go on for all those who believed in them, the only thing that got changed was the band's name; The Pride was a fact! 'The Pride' because no matter what happened, the band struggled through it all. And to show everybody, an EP was made. Streetwise Records thought it was time a Belgian band stood up for all skins in Belgium, so history was made when the first ever Belgian Oi! record got on the market. In less than a month 1000 copies were sold. The 'Fresh & Burning' EP contained four typical English style Oi! songs and it was very singalong, this was something we could all be proud of. Positive remarks came from around the globe and a lot of labels wanted to sign them on, but it was Tony's Step One who got the deal. But again the band came under a bad spotlight! A former friend came up with photos and newspaper cuttings to let the scene see who they were dealing with. Bullshit of course but nevertheless the debut CD had to go on another label called Streetpunk. Even through the lies which some believe, the 'No Holding Back' CD was there and got stamped one of the best Oi! releases of 1995. This of course could only be done with the help of Berca, who joined the band on guitar, giving the sound more melody. - Decide for yourself! Gigs were done with various bands in various countries and things could not go better at this time, with the new album coming out soon, this time on the German label Walzwerk.

OBVIOUS QUESTION - WHY DO YOU SING IN ENGLISH? (IF IT'S TO MAKE PEOPLE IN ENGLAND TAKE MORE NOTICE THEN IT HAS CERTAINLY WORKED, SEEING AS HOW WE GENERALLY CAN'T BE ARSED LEARNING ANYONE ELSE'S LANGUAGE!)
Simple - it just sounds better in English, and we're sure we can reach a larger crowd that way, everybody knows a few words of English.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR MUSIC TO SOMEONE WHO HASN'T HEARD YOU BEFORE, AND WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO YOU SING ABOUT?
We would say it's a mixture of all the Oi! greats of the 80's, bands like The Business, 4-Skins, Combat 84, Last Resort, etc. We sing about daily life and what comes with it. All we want is to be a mirror for those who listen to it, they must feel something of theirselves in our music, and if you see the crowd reacting then you know you're doing the right thing!

UNLESS THEY ARE INTO IT THEMSELVES, DO PEOPLE IN BELGIUM KNOW WHAT AN Oi! BAND IS? WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON COMPARISONS YOU GET?
Of course most of our followers are into the scene and know a lot of other Oi! bands worldwide, but for those who bought the CD not knowing it was Oi!, many said they were surprised with it and wanted to hear other Oi! bands as well, they bought themselves other CD's! Some were wondering why you don't see or hear such music on TV or radio and we all know the answer to that, don't we?! But what the fuck we like it as it is, a street rock 'n' roll band, nothing more nothing less. Comparing our music with other bands? We sometimes hear this or that, but in the end it is us doing our own thing!

ARE ANY OF THE BAND SKINHEADS? HOW ARE SKINHEADS GENERALLY REGARDED BY THE AVERAGE BELGIAN?
The Pride started as 3 skinheads, now 2 have a crop, 1 is normal and 1 has got long hair! The average Belgian sees skinheads as violent things but this is because they don't know any better... it's what they read or see on the news and the shitty B-crap Hollywood films. But when you start knowing some people and they get to know you then they open their eyes and often give support.

ARE THERE ENOUGH PEOPLE INTO Oi! IN BELGIUM FOR YOU TO BE ABLE TO PLAY LIVE REGULARLY? IS IT MAINLY SKINHEADS OR DO YOU GET PEOPLE INTO OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC COMING ALONG TOO? ALSO DO YOU PLAY SHOWS WITH NON-Oi! BANDS AS WELL?
In the early 80's large numbers of skins could be found in every Belgian city, but it somehow all disappeared. Some hang on and keep the faith, and for those who now join in, well those lads must get the support of the older crew so we can grow into a healthy movement again. Organisations like Live &

Loud are doing their best keeping things together by giving the real Oi! skinhead shows, and most of the time we are on the bill. When they first started and did Condemned 84 back in 1989, 300 skins turned up and most of them were from outside Belgium! Recently they put on The Last Resort for a crowd of 600 skins, half of them were Belgians so that means something don't you think? The Pride also get support from football hools which is a good thing that means Oi! is no longer a punk or skin thing. We prefer the odd Oi! gig but we played a festival in Germany once for over 2,000 people, various styles of music were on, all went okay. Note: we were the only Oi! band on the bill and about 800 skins were present for support!

WHERE HAVE YOU HAD THE BEST AUDIENCE RECEPTION? - IN BELGIUM OR SOME OTHER COUNTRY?
Belgium is one, and it's nice to see more and more different faces each time we play, but the place to be at the moment is Germany. Weekend or midweek shows attracted large numbers of skins when we were in Dresden together with Section 5, we stole the show and it was superb, the crowd knew a lot of our songs by heart which was a nice thing.

ARE THERE ANY OTHER GOOD BANDS IN BELGIUM (THE ONLY OTHER Oi!-TYPE BAND I'VE READ ABOUT IS FUNERAL DRESS), AND WHAT SORT OF BANDS AND MUSIC ARE POPULAR IN BELGIUM? - THE ONLY BELGIAN ARTISTS WHICH EVER GOT INTO THE MAINSTREAM CHARTS IN THE U.K. ARE THE SINGING NUN, PLASTIC BERTRAND, AND MORE RECENTLY TECHNOTRONIC! THE SINGING NUN BECAME A LESBIAN DRUG ADDICT, AND TECHNOTRONIC DISAPPEARED BECAUSE THEY WERE CRAP, BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO PLASTIC BERTRAND? DOES HE STILL EXIST? HE BECAME WELL KNOWN HERE WHEN PUNK WAS POPULAR AND HAD A BIG HIT WITH "CA PLANE POUR MOI" AND A FEW MINOR HITS. ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO I SAW HIM ON THE EUROVISION SONG CONTEST REPRESENTING (I THINK) LUXEMBOURG, SO I GUESS HE DOES MORE 'CABARET' STYLE MUSIC THESE DAYS?
Funeral Dress started around the same time as us and they made a name on the punk circuit playing a lot with well known bands. It's just a pity they still play the same songs as ten years before. Nothing changes, but it still does it! We think it's impossible to see both bands on the same stage, not in Belgium anyway, because of the violence. The early 80's had some unity among each other, but this is long gone now and I don't see any change yet. There were other Oi! bands before us but none seemed to manage to keep the fire burning, some chose political roads and this splits the thing up of course. (Comrade(Left) - Fight Action - Justice (Right)) We ourselves try to get politics out of it all, but still we get marked as a right wing band; that's because we always say everybody is welcome at our shows as long as they enjoy themselves. Yes, we often get the right wing but we have never had any trouble, it seems like they leave their politics at home and come to see a live band in action. The Pride was the sign of the start of a new wave of bands. We hear there are some others in the pipeline, and we would like to say we will help them out any way we can. A promising band is the new Oi! band Convicted, four young skins which remind me of the English impact, and I even hear some Condemned 84 in their music. Plastic Bertrand was a poseur! He was there at the right time and in the right place, he got rich and was everything a punk wasn't.

WHAT SORT OF MUSIC DID YOU LISTEN TO WHILST GROWING UP? WHEN AND HOW DID YOU FIRST HEAR, AND BECOME FANS OF, Oi! MUSIC?
We grew up with the sounds of 2-Tone and the punk rock of S.L.F., UK Subs, Sham 69, Menace, Cockney Rejects and others. Those records could be found very easily in a proper record store. Around 1980-81 we came into contact with the real Oi! bands. The 'Carry On Oi!' album remains the best album ever.

(contiinued over).

(The Pride continued...)
WHAT DOES 'Oi!' MEAN TO YOU?
Oi! means doing whatever you like and want to do, speak your mind and don't be afraid what the reactions will be, it's having a say. Oi! is having a laugh, you and me with a beer enjoying life...winning! Not walking in line which some other fucker drew out for you like it is with most of the brain-washed majority. They don't know any better. Wake up! Oi! is real life!

ARE YOU ABLE TO EXPLAIN A BIT ABOUT HOW Oi!, WHERE ALL THE ORIGINAL BANDS WERE FROM THE U.K., HAS BECOME SO POPULAR OVER IN EUROPE, AND WHEN DID IT START TO CATCH ON? SURELY IN THE EARLY 1980's NOT MANY Oi! RECORDS WERE BOUGHT BY PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE U.K.?
We should say that football was an important key in bringing it into Europe, the fans brought it with them, and of course for us it was easy to travel to England, we live near the sea so the crossing was a normal thing to do when we were young. It seemed all so natural, going to the Last Resort shop, seeing a gig in London while there, and bringing all the details and records back to your home town. Others followed and joined in.

HAVING NEVER PLAYED IN ENGLAND, I'M INTERESTED TO KNOW HOW YOU IMAGINE THE LIVE Oi! SCENE TO BE OVER HERE AT THE MOMENT?
We know what it looks like, because we were recently in England to see The Warriors. Funny, in Belgium they got the attention of 600 people, in Canterbury only a handfull were present. (ACTUALLY, OVER 100 IS REGARDED AS A DECENT CROWD IN ENGLAND AT THE MOMENT - ED) It's about time things were put in order and came out again, - let the rest of Europe see where it all started... England! And we would only be too happy to help it happen. Oi! For England!

HAVING PLAYED IN GERMANY, BELGIUM (AND MORE?), HAVE YOU NOTICED ANY DIFFERENCES IN HOW PEOPLE THINK OF Oi! IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES, OR ANY NEW/ DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO Oi! WITH ANY OF THE NEW EUROPEAN BANDS?
Nothing new really, just that there is less violence nowadays, we think people got the message and got it under their skulls that aggro will not help the scene any further. Violence amongst each other ruins it with the result that no more gigs can be held, bands call it a day and so on. The skins and other fans of Oi! music have got the right to see live bands in action so let's give it instyle.

DOES THE BAND TAKE UP MOST OF YOUR SPARE TIME? IF NOT, WHAT ELSE DO YOU DO, AND DO YOU GO TO SEE MANY OTHER LIVE CONCERTS?
Sure, a lot of time goes into the band, but don't forget there is life behind it as well!
Steve is a truck driver and he spends a lot of time with his wife and daughter.
Chris is a full-time factory worker and is a fanatic of the full contact sport (UM, IS THAT MARTIAL ARTS OR SHAGGING?! -ED), and he plays bass in a rock band!
Schimmel is unemployed and if he is not out job hunting he can be found in the wood with his great passion: dogs.
Berca is a professional wrestler and Belgian champion. He is always travelling up and down! Who knows, maybe you will see him on Eurosport wearing a Pride T-Shirt!
Going to other live concerts is very important for us, to be among the people, for contact with possible promoters, for the music and learning from it.

IS THE SONG "SHE MALE" BASED ON A TRUE EXPERIENCE? PLEASE TELL US WHAT HAPPENED! (APPARENTLY THE SAME THING ONCE HAPPENED TO SID VICIOUS ON THE SEX PISTOLS TOUR OF AMERICA.)
A friend of ours had that shitty experience! Sad as it is he was in a pub chatting up this lovely blonde, and after buying her a few beers he was in,

and so was she, for more,.... so you can imagine what kind of reaction it gave finding out she was in fact a he!! So much for modern times. We think the person she-male should have warned our friend of her/his unnatural behaviour, but nevertheless our friend was the joker and we had a good laugh!

ARE 'PRIDE' POLO SHIRTS A HOT FASHION ITEM IN BELGIUM YET? (I WAS SENT AN ADVERT FOR THEM)
In our early days we had the odd T-Shirt, but we think fans are more into other stuff like polo shirts, it's more fashionable and yes, it's going well and above all people are not buying a cat in a bag but pure quality!

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP FIVE FAVOURITE SONGS? (OF ANY KIND, NOT JUST Oi! ONES)
Everybody has got a different opinion on that one but this is what we came up with:-

Top 5 All-Time
1. 4-Skins - Chaos
2. Business - Product
3. Skrewdriver - Streetfight
4. Section 5 - Every Saturday
5. Twisted Sister - We're Not Going To Take It

Top 5 New Lot
1. The Elite - Teen Idol
2. Boisterous - Broon Ale Army
3. Condemned 84 - Survive
4. Crashed Out - Fight Back
5. Argy Bargy - What Are You Fighting For

Top 5 Ska
1. Mr.Review - Street Where I'm Living
2. Hotknives - Dave & Mary
3. Mark Foggo - 2 Legs
4. Employees - Pick It Up
5. Riffs - Funny Little Fella

IS THERE ANYTHING I'VE MISSED OUT OR THAT YOU'D LIKE TO TALK ABOUT, OR ANY FINAL WORDS, ETC.?
We would of course like to thank you Tim for the interest in the band and we hope you will get all the support you need to make this new zine a success. To the readers, don't forget it's the fanzines spreading the word on records, bands, gigs, etc., these are the things keeping the scene strong. - Support your local zine! It supports you. - We wish a lot of luck to Boisterous, Crashed Out, Section 5, Daryl and others, hope to see all you lot in Belgium again, and who knows maybe in England one day. Ta, The Pride.

DISCOGRAPHY:
As THE MUSHROOMS - Youth Of Today EP (Sold Out)
As THE PRIDE - Fresh & Burning EP (Sold Out)
- No Holding Back CD LP
- History Of... EP
- also on Voice Of The Street compilation CD LP
In the pipeline:- split EP with Convicted & other Belgian Oi!, a new album, and various compilations.

Band contact c/o Marmix 'Bieze' Bienstman
Zandstraat 169
8200 St Andries Brugge
BELGIUM.

Also available from this address are CD copies of 'No Holding Back' for 450 BFr, and the aforementioned polo shirts for 600 BFr including postage. Shirts come in white, black, blue, burgundy and green, and M-L-XL-XXL sizes.

THE LAST RESORT/ THE ELITE/ THE PRIDE/ CONVICTED - HARELBEKE, BELGIUM

About 600 people bought a ticket to see the return of Oi! legends The Last Resort, and what a night it was. Skinheads from Belgium, Holland, Germany, France, Denmark, Luxembourg, Slovenia, Switzerland, Austria, Poland (SOUNDS LIKE A LIST OF TEAMS THAT'VE BEATEN SCOTLAND AT FOOTBALL RECENTLY - SARCY ED.) and England (OH NO.) were present for a night of Oi! Glorious Oi!

Organisers had to promise a peaceful night to the police and state security. They even had to pay a bond to the city, which would be returned if all went well. The Live & Loud crew has got a good reputation for trouble free concerts, and this important one was also kept in good order (thanks to the tight security).

The first band on was Convicted. They were not on the bill but the members of Live & Loud gave these young lads a chance to play at a real Oi! festival - they have been on the punk rock circuit too long! They played a short but powerful set and we will surely hear more from them in the near future.

Then came local heroes The Pride, and from the first song until the last the crowd would not stop dancing and singing. "Fresh & Burning", "Working Class", "Skinhead", all the fans' favourites were played and even though Steve (vocalist) was very drunk there was and is no stopping the uprise of this band.

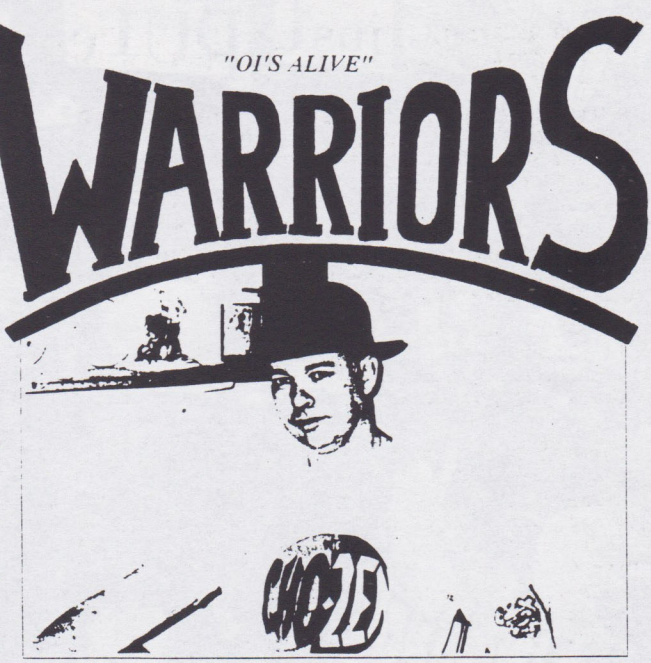
After a break, Daryl took the stage with his Elite and carried on the party. It's a shame they have called it a day now because this is real live entertainment. They really know how to get a crowd going - 600 crops going up and down, it's just amazing!

And then the time was right for Bilko and Saxby to take to the stage, backed by Daryl (again) on guitar and Dustin of Argy Bargy on drums. They kicked off with "Soul Boys" and everyone joined in with their heads up high. New material was also on the playlist but it was songs like "Resort Boot Boys", "King Of The Jungle", and other unforgettable songs that did the trick, the only negative thing that can be said is the p.a. sucked, Saxby's voice was a bit under the influence of alcohol, and the Last Resort played covers of The Business and Cock Sparrer! But all in all it was a success, another night to remember.

(REVIEW BY BIEZE)

The Last Resort
no mess no fuss
just pure impact
THE ELITE
THE PRIDE

Arthur Kay Interview



The similarities between Status Quo and Arthur Kay are obvious:- 25 years in the business, and Radio One won't play his records either. With all the recent goings on in the Last Resort/Warriors camp, I thought an interview with Arthur would be timely. Our chat focussed mainly on his current activities with The Warriors, but also touches on his work with other bands, and of course there were a few questions about the original Last Resort I wanted to ask. This is actually going to be 'part 1' of our Warriors interview, as Saxby's promised to answer some questions for next time, so in the next issue there will be an interview with Saxby coming up as well. For now though, here's the interview with best-selling author and member of as many bands as is humanly possible, Arthur 'Bilko' Kay. Take it away, me....

I THOUGHT A GOOD PLACE TO START WOULD BE WITH THIS INTERVIEW QUOTE, WHICH I FOUND RECENTLY IN POLISH FANZINE 'CARRY ON Oi!', AND GOES:-
Q. IS IT POSSIBLE TO RE-FORM THE LAST RESORT?
A. AS MUCH CHANCE OF THE RESORT REFORMING AS GILLINGHAM WINNING THE F.A. CUP.
I'M SURE THAT WILL DELIGHT GEORGE MARSHALL, BUT ASIDE FROM GILLINGHAM'S IMMINENT CUP RUN, WHAT HAPPENED TO CHANGE THIS?
Well at the time when I made that statement I was playing with the Cho-zen. I'd wanted to re-form the Resort for years, but the Cho-zen was kind of the vehicle I had for punk and Oi!, and then Bob Coltart - otherwise known as Bobby Fabulous - is a professional musician and 'cos of his commitment with the Maroon Dogs I was turning work down and consequently I reformed the Originals and got more into doing that, and then I got a phone call from Bieze (ORGANISER OF LIVE & LOUD CONCERTS IN BELGIUM -ED) asking if we'd like to reform the Resort to do a gig in Belgium - it was a good financial offer so I said I'd find out if the band were up for it, and I contacted Daryl Smith who I knew 'cos he used to come to Originals gigs, and he got Dustin involved, and I went round to see Roi Pearce and he wasn't up for it so we decided to knock it on the head. And then by chance my wife Lesley was talking to Saxby in the park and Saxby said "well I'm up for it" and so we got Saxby in.

OBVIOUS QUESTION, WHAT'S SAXBY BEEN DOING FOR THE PAST 15 YEARS?!
Driving trains! He's been working for British Rail, and not done anything to do with music whatsoever apart from singing to karaokes down the pub.

SIMILARLY, WHAT ABOUT ANDY BENFIELD AND CHARLIE DUGGAN - DO YOU STILL KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THEM, AND IF SO DID YOU APPROACH EITHER OF THEM TO SEE IF THEY WERE INTERESTED? DOES "COME BACK CHARLIE" IN THE CD SLEEVENOTES REFER TO CHARLIE DUGGAN?
You can print this - I wouldn't play with Andy Benfield in a band again if he was the last drummer on earth. Basically this is the resentment that goes back to the days of the original Last Resort when he blew out a gig at the Thomas-A-Beckett and we got Johnny Jacobs of the 4-Skins in, and I've never trusted him since then!

WHAT ABOUT CHARLIE?
I'd play with Charlie no problem, but he's a motorbike courier now and hasn't touched the guitar for 15 years and he's not into it, but I'd always play with Charlie and that's what the sleevenotes refer to, that's him.

WHAT'S ROI UP TO NOW?
He's reformed The Last Resort and it's basically a heavy metal band. As far as the name 'The Last Resort' goes, when the Resort was originally formed, our manager Micky French who owned The Last Resort shop advised Roi to register the name as a business with a business registrar in the City Of London, and he registered the band in his own name as a sole trader, so he has got exclusive rights to the name The Last Resort. That's why he's using the Last Resort name and we're using the Last Resort continuation name The Warriors. To be honest I've always preferred the name The Warriors to The Last Resort, I never really liked that name much. We're still skinheads by the way, The Warriors. Daryl and Dustin are I suppose what you'd call 'skinhead crossover' - their hair's just slightly longer, and I'm, there's nothing else I can do with my hair 'cos I'm totally bald so I've shaved the whole lot off now, and I wear the stuff that I've always liked basically.

REGARDING THE 'FULL MONTY' LP, THIS SEEMED TO COME OUT REALLY QUICKLY AFTER THE REFORMATION WAS ANNOUNCED, SO HOW DID YOU GO ABOUT MAKING THIS? I NOTICE THERE'S QUITE A FEW OF YOUR SONGS AND QUITE A FEW DARYL SMITH/ SAXBY COMPOSITIONS, SO WERE SOME SONGS ONES YOU'D WRITTEN BEFORE THE REFORMATION?
I just write all the time, I literally must've written thousands of songs. It just so happened Tony Saunders (Step 1) phoned up 'cos he knew we'd got the Resort back together again, and he asked would we do an album for him, and I had eight songs anyway, and the "Garry Bushell" song I wrote in the studio. We had to wait two weeks to get in the studio and while we were waiting I'd written about another five songs anyway, and there were songs I'd written which I didn't use, so they're all new songs basically. "Sawdust Caesar" I wrote for the Originals, but basically I write all the time.

SO SEEING AS YOU MAKE VARIOUS DIFFERENT TYPES OF MUSIC, DO THE SONGS SORT OF CHANGE STYLE?
There's certain songs that I can use as a ska song and there's certain songs that I can't. Basically ska's in 4/4, the same as what punk is, so it's just basically changing the emphasis of the rhythm, but I couldn't do a song like "The Last Refuge" with a ska band, 'cos lyrically it just wouldn't work. But "Mothers In Arms", that was done originally as a ska number, but we tried it out with the Originals and it didn't work, so we tried it out as a punk song and it worked brilliantly.

(continued overleaf..)

"Arthur Kay quote coming...a good song is a good song irrespective of what style it's played in."

RIGHT, SO YOU BASICALLY WRITE THE SONG FIRST, AND THEN SEE WHICH STYLE IT'D SUIT BEST?
Arthur Kay quote coming...a good song is a good song, irrespective of what style it's played in. Basically I'm a songwriter. I don't sling things together to go in a studio. I've even got a few ballads, there's one I wrote called "Bluebird", and there's one I was gonna record with The Warriors but it's more a kind of country-rock number and it just didn't work so I've just left it as it is. That's called "For The Sake Of The Children", it's kind of like a Steve Earle-type country rocker.

ARE YOU GONNA BE DOING MORE STUFF AS THE WARRIORS?
Oh yeah, definitely. I'm very happy with the way The Warriors has gone. We're doing two tracks for an album for Tony Saunders called 'Trouble On The Terraces'.

IS THAT TO TIE IN WITH EURO '96?
No, we're the last band to contribute, but by the time it's actually out they'll be sweeping up the debris for Euro '96; I'm going after that.

HAVE YOU TRIED WRITING SONGS ALL TOGETHER OR ARE YOU GONNA DO IT LIKE ON 'THE FULL MONTY' ALBUM WITH YOU DOING YOUR OWN STUFF?
We work as we always worked in The Last Resort. Saxby always worked with Charlie. I mean, Saxby was responsible for the majority of the Last Resort songs, I'm guilty for "King Of The Jungle", "Rebels With A Cause", and "Horrorshow" - that's my contribution to the band, I think Roi contributed a couple but the vast majority of the stuff was written by Saxby and Charlie Duggan.

DO THE CHO-ZEN STILL EXIST NOW?
No, it's basically down to Bob Coltart 'cos of his other commitments and now The Warriors is back in tow. If people want certain Cho-zen songs to be played then we'll do 'em with The Warriors. Like, we do "Marlon Brando" and if they call out for any more we're out there to entertain the people who come and see us, we're there for the skinheads, we ain't gonna go heavy metal, we ain't gonna go away, we're not gonna grow our hair or change our style, we're a street punk band, we're working class, we're non-political, basically going out for a laugh and having a say in the spirit of Oi!

A LOT OF Oi! AND PUNK BANDS SEEMED TO GO HEAVY METAL, REALISE PEOPLE DIDN'T LIKE IT AS MUCH, THEN SPLIT UP AND LATER RE-FORM PLAYING BACK IN THEIR ORIGINAL STYLE.
I think a lot of people used the Oi!/Punk thing as a springboard because it was so difficult to get into a rock band back then because the thing was if you wanted a disco back in the 70s, it was disco and heavy rock, and to get into heavy rock you needed a degree in music and to talk like a university lecturer, and when punk came along first of all the real punk with Cock Sparrer and The Heavy Metal Kids with Gary Holton, and then you got the manufactured variety of working class punk with the Sex Pistols and that, it was like a breath of fresh air to what was around at the time, but I think a lot of musicians around at the time wanted to get into

rock music but it was a way back into bands, y'know - three chords and you're in a band, it was a way back into playing in front of a live audience and they kind of used it as a springboard.

IS THE SET THAT THE WARRIORS PLAY LIVE A MIXTURE OF OLD LAST RESORT STUFF AND STUFF OFF 'THE FULL MONTY'?
We're doing all the best of the Last Resort stuff, and we do a few Cho-zen numbers and a couple of Cock Sparrer ones thrown in as well, and stuff off 'The Full Monty' - that's The Warriors - Oi! The Cabaret!

A COUPLE OF QUESTIONS REGARDING THE 'OLD' LAST RESORT, WHEN DID YOU FIRST BECOME AWARE THAT THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN INTEREST IN THE LAST RESORT? IT SEEMED LIKE THE VALUE OF THE 'SKINHEAD ANTHEMS' LP ROCKETED IN VALUE A FEW YEARS BACK.
Yeah, it was late 80s, although it started when I was with the Balham Alligators and Roi was with the 4-Skins, and I was getting phone calls from people from time to time asking if there was any chance of getting the Resort back together, and then I moved down to Herne Bay from London - 'cos I'm a native Londoner, I lived in London about 30 years of my life and I'm glad you're a paper that doesn't follow Man.United 'cos I hate 'em as well! I'm a Millwall supporter and I still go and watch them getting played off the pitch by everyone who comes down here basically, I'm an old Millwall die hard. - But round about 1988 I started meeting Lol Pryor again and he'd started Link Records, and all of a sudden there was this amazing interest in The Last Resort, and when he told me how much the original album was fetching I couldn't believe it, I thought god I wish I had a box full. At the time we were living it, we weren't thinking about how it would last, at the time the way the scene was no-one thought they were gonna live long enough to tell the tale.

DO YOU KNOW IF YOU SOLD MANY RECORDS ABROAD ORIGINALLY?
No, I had no idea of the European scene, I was only made aware of that through Lol and Mark, 'cos I was into conquering England but they said "Oh, forget about England mate, go to Europe, that's where it's all happening now, Europe and the States", they made me aware of all that and of course since I've been out there and I've seen the scene out there for myself it's unbelieveable.

HAVE YOU HEARD MANY FOREIGN BANDS?
I've heard The Pride, I like them, but not that many.

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HOW Oi! HAS FILTERED THROUGH THE REST OF THE WORLD NOW? IN A WAY IT SEEMS TO ME THAT BECAUSE THEY MISSED OUT IN THE EARLY 80's THE LYRICS AND STYLE CAN SEEM A BIT DATED WITH A LOT OF BANDS - WHICH IS FAIR ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE IN THOSE COUNTRIES WHERE IT'S RELATIVELY NEW I SUPPOSE BUT PERSONALLY I THINK THERE'S A BIT TOO MUCH OF SONGS ABOUT 'DRINKING BEER, WEARING DOC MARTENS, AND HAVING A LAUGH AND A SAY' AND NOT ENOUGH ORIGINAL THEMES FOR SONGS.
A lot of the problem is I think people getting into it do Oi!-by-numbers. They kind of think 'well this is what it should sound like' and that's what they do, they kind of emulate it, a bit like what Oasis do with The Beatles, and a lot of the new young bands now hear old bands like us and they think well y'know, having a beer, getting in a ruck, and string a load of words together. But what I've always written is stuff that I've experienced, stuff that I feel inside, and Saxby's the same, he just writes things that he feels deeply.

I SAW THE 'BUSHELL ON THE BOX' TV SHOW RECENTLY WHERE CHAS & DAVE COVERED PART OF THE WARRIORS' "GARY BUSHELL" SONG LIVE, SO HOW DID THIS ALL COME ABOUT, DID YOU SEND HIM A COPY OF THE CD ORIGINALLY?
Yeah, I sent Bushell a copy just thinking he's bound to sling this in the bin, it's done as a wind up, y'know, and I sent it and I didn't know he'd

(continued over ....)

like it. And of course what he's done is first of all he's had a bit of us playing it, and then he had Chas & Dave playing it. I couldn't believe it, Chas & Dave doing one of my songs, and it's all kosher 'cos I checked up from the Performing Rights Society, he's done it all right, they haven't put their names on the end of it. So I get performing rights money for that.

I SAW ON ONE OF HIS SHOWS HE SAID IF ANY BANDS WANT TO COME AND PLAY LIVE IN THE GARDEN LET US KNOW, SO MAYBE YOU SHOULD OFFER TO GO AND PLAY IT LIVE FOR HIM?
We did actually through Daryl's father who's a publisher, he phoned him up and had a long chat with him, but he said he wished he hadn't said it because he's had so many people phoning him up and it was basically said on the spur of the moment, but he's gonna try and get a show together to have bands like us on there.

MOST OF THE REVIEWS I'VE SEEN OF THE SONG SEEM TO TAKE IT AS A SLAG OFF, BUT I TOOK IT MORE AS GIVING HIM CREDIT FOR WHAT HE DID AND JUST GIVING HIM A DIG FOR JOINING THE SUN KINDA THING.
Well if it hadn't been for Garry Bushell the Resort would never have made it outside the Pier Hotel, it'd have been a local band playing to our mates.

I BELIEVE YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME VIDEOS COMING OUT SHORTLY?
The Belgian one was filmed by Barn End but it's not coming out on our request 'cos it's crap, but we've done one for Visionary that will be coming out, that's the Cardiff one, and that'll be out in September, along with some interviews, Roi Pearce is on there as well, that was done before the reformation, before The Warriors was formed. (AS SEEN ON 'Oi! THE VIDEO' - ED.)

WHAT WAS UP WITH THE BELGIAN GIG?
The sound was shit, it was an awful sound system, but it was good that it got the band sorted and got our set together, made us find out what worked well and what didn't.

YOU ALSO PLAYED IN CANTERBURY, SO HOW DID THAT GO?
Brilliant, really great night, 150 people, full of skinheads, no problems. Everyone had a good time.

AND FINALLY, WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE FUTURE FOR THE WARRIORS?
We won't be doing an album for a while, not this year, but there will be another one. As far as gigs go we've got one lined up in Vienna in Austria in August, then we're doing a five date tour of Germany and I'm doing a five date tour with The Originals out there as well. Oh, and there's a new Originals album coming out on Step-1, it's live in Berlin recorded at Pottersdam, and it's really good, the best Originals album ever.

THE WARRIORS LIVE IN CARDIFF (PHOTO BY TOAST)

BOOK REVIEW:

GEORGE MARSHALL - 'SKINHEAD NATION' (S.T.Publishing) £12.95
Ex-skinhead(!) George Marshall's much anticipated new book. Billed in some places as the 'follow up' to Spirit Of 69, which is wide of the mark as it's in a totally different format, and covers skinheads themselves rather than the styles and music favoured by skins over the years like Spirit Of 69 did. More it's snapshots of how the skinhead cult stands today, what it means and what it's like to be a skinhead in various parts of the world. Imagine the 'World Of Skinhead' documentary in book form and you won't be far wrong. And while there's not much on music, the section about Angela Rippon's Bum made a nice change. Maybe a bit steep at 13 quid, but there's a lot of research gone into making it, and there's lots of new photos (the setting for many of which will be familiar to you from the 'World Of Skinhead' film), info that you won't get elsewhere, and George's canny knack of summing things up absolutely spot on.

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VIDEO REVIEWS:

THE EXPLOITED - 'ROCK & ROLL OUTLAWS'
'Oi! THE VIDEO' Part 1 (Both put out by Visionary)

Two videos that have been put together by Stuart of Control fanzine, so full marks for actually getting them off the ground and about time such things existed too. The Exploited one tells the story of the band from their inception up to the present day via press cuttings, a recent interview with Wattie and people formerly involved with the group, and various live clips of the band which aren't all top quality, but this actually seems to add to the feel of the whole thing. The interviews are well conducted, though foreign viewers especially will have trouble understanding Wattie's accent (he's now into gabba techno by the way - which figures!), but an essential document for big Exploited fans, and entertaining viewing for the more casual fan like me. One thing though - why in the opening Garry Bushell interview clip is Bushell so obviously having a wank while answering the question? Look at it and you'll see what I mean!

Moving on to Oi! The Video which is done in a similar style. The interviews are truly great, all done about a year or so ago and top entertainment from members or ex-members of the Rejects, Last Resort, Business, Sparrer, Argy Bargy, and some bloke called Bushell again. The music footage (basically n'th generation copies used, erm, without full permission shall we say) leaves a lot to be desired - basically 'cos in most cases in the early 80's it wasn't thought that anyone'd be interested in anything 15 years down the line, so the stuff just isn't there. An exception is The Business performing "Real Enemy" live from a couple of years back. Given this obvious problem, Stuart manages to capture the feel and the spirit of Oi! really well. On the down side it's a pity there's no representation for the 4-Skins and that Sham 69 wouldn't play ball, but the people that did take part you couldn't ask for more from. Oi! The Video Part 1 lasts about an hour and takes us up to just before Southall. The idea being to continue the story with a 'part 2', but I think legal naivety may have put paid to that. In hindsight it looks as though it would have been better to put parts 1 and 2 together, that way part 2 would definitely have come out. In general though it's well put together with only the odd factual error (e.g. Splodge's "Two Pints Of Lager" did <u>not</u> get to no.1 - despite Max himself seeming to think so these days!). Buy it for the interviews.

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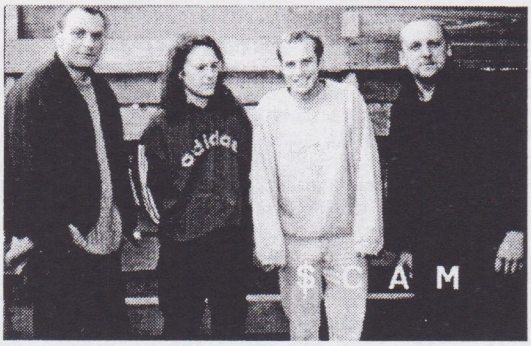
$CAM
Interview



I first came across Lord Skaman & The Magnificent Seven at our first Rough Kutz gig in Sheffield - we'd been intending to play some tapes over the p.a. between bands but the venue turned out to have no tape set up, just a CD player, and the only CD anyone had was Dave's copy of the Lord Skaman 'Too Good To Be True!' LP. So we just played that over the p.a. all night, and I really liked it, wrote off for my own copy (see Record Reviews section), and also sent down a few questions as I couldn't remember having seen them mentioned in any other zine before, and I thought people should be made aware of them. Since that LP was done, they've changed their name to Scam, and going by the line-up given in the CD booklet it's basically the same people minus the Lord Skaman keyboard player and trumpet player. Anyway, this interview with Lee explains about both bands, and was done in an unusual way - Rather than write them down, Lee spoke his answers onto the left channel of a tape using his 4-track portastudio, and put some rough mixes of new Scam songs in the right channel! So playing the tape back I've got Scam in one ear and Lee in the other. The music sounds as impressive as, and very similar in style to, their Lord Skaman incarnation, and here's how the interview went....

OKAY, I GUESS YOU'LL BE A NEW NAME TO MOST OF OUR READERS, SO COULD YOU GIVE US AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BAND?
The line-up of Scam is: Craig Holmes-drums, Jim Fisher-bass, Andy Hardwick-guitar, Lee Stomper (that's me)-keyboards & guitar, and Andrew Richards-alto sax & lead vocals.
We started playing ska stuff in 1988. First we were called The Management and we were gonna do an EP for a label - I think it could've been Ska Records - but they went bang, so we recorded it but nothing came of it, and then about six months later the singer left so our then drummer (Andy Richards) became the singer, and ever since then he's been the vocalist, and we were called Lord Skaman from about 1990 up to June 1995.

WHAT MADE YOU FORM A SKA BAND? ARE YOU ALL INTO SIMILAR MUSIC & HOW DID YOU ARRIVE AT THE WAY YOU SOUND?
We're not into similar music at all. I think this is what makes the songs we do not as ska-y as other bands and probably more interesting. I suppose the ska element comes from Andrew Richards the singer, I've always been more into heavier stuff, and keyboard music like Gary Numan (OH DEAR -ED.) and what have you. Although I think as kids we were into similar music, I remember myself when I was twelve in about 1980 very much being into ska and all that kind of stuff. As far as writing is concerned it's me and the singer who do most of the writing anyway.

PHOTO (LEFT): LORD SKAMAN

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SCAM AND LORD SKAMAN?
Lord Skaman was I suppose mainly dominated by the keyboard sound of Steve Bunting, the old keyboard player. Without wishing to sound arrogant, Scam is music-wise dominated by me and the guitar player, although me and the singer write and the drummer helps a lot with the arrangements because we fit it round what he's doing pattern-wise. I think with Lord Skaman there were far too many chiefs and not enough indians, and it doesn't seem to be that way with Scam anyway.

HAVE YOU DONE MANY GIGS (BOTH AS LORD SKAMAN AND SCAM)? WHAT SORT OF PLACES HAVE YOU PLAYED AND TO WHAT SORT OF CROWD? ANY THAT STAND OUT?
We've only played about ten so far as Scam because it's been very slow going. With Lord Skaman we played loads of gigs, we played Holland twice - once on New Year's Eve which was absolutely brilliant, we've played bike rallies, scooter do's, to rockers and mods, - we seem to go down pretty well to anybody. I think this is probably gonna answer one of your points about ska, it does seem to be a unified kind of music. Loads of people seem to be into it, or if they're not 'into' it, it's certainly one of the most non-offensive, pleasing kinds of music there is, and I think that's one of the reasons why we play it actually. We've had quite a few stand out gigs, - drummers falling off stage pissed as farts, various things like p.a.'s packing in, all that kind of stuff, I suppose one of the best gigs was the last Lord Skaman gig, which we played in our home town of Chesterfield, and it was absolutely packed out, people swinging from the rafters and I'm sure it must have broken safety rules.

DO YOU SEE YOURSELF AS PART OF THE U.K. SKA SCENE (WHAT THERE IS OF IT), OR MORE JUST DOING YOUR OWN THING AND JUST HAPPENING TO BE INTO SKA SO THAT'S HOW YOU SOUND?
I think definitely the latter - I don't think we've ever seen ourself as part of the U.K. ska scene because the only bands we came across I suppose were the bands we played with in like 1990. We played with Ska-Boom a lot and got to know them quite well, I suppose they were the ones that we used to look up to 'cos they had a great following, they had a CD out and what-have-you. But there were bands like Big Shot from Bristol I think, and Ska Fever from Nuneaton or somewhere like that, and those two seemed 'too ska', too one-dimensional, - they were great bands, don't get me wrong I'm not knocking them at all, plus you see our singer's completely fucking mental, he's a real showman, and that comes across on stage. That's why I think we had a bit of an image of being a fun band which I suppose can maybe put some people off, but that's why I would consider ourselves to be a step aside from ska. Ska influenced, but very much us. (continued overleaf..)

(Scam continued...)
TELL US A BIT ABOUT THE LORD SKAMAN CD - IS IT SELF-FINANCED AND IS GLASSHOUSE YOUR OWN LABEL JUST SET UP TO RELEASE YOUR OWN STUFF? WAS THIS ON PURPOSE OR E.G. DID YOU FIND A LACK OF INTEREST FROM RECORD LABELS FOR RELEASING SKA MUSIC AS IT'S NOT CONSIDERED TO BE IN FASHION AT THE MOMENT?
Yes it was self-financed, it cost us £600 I think to record - 'cos we've got a bit of a deal going, and £2,000 to press. 'Glasshouse' was just one of the tracks on the CD, we were desperate to find a name for the label to make us look a bit more professional, and it sounded like a label title and was the first one we came up with. I suppose if we had money I always thought it would've been nice for it to've been Chesterfield's label, but as we don't it's obviously never gonna be. We definitely found lack of interest from labels in releasing ska music, they just did not want to know. But having said that, the person who targeted these record companies we 'parted company' with, semi-amicably I suppose, but you've got to try or there's no point in carrying on.

THE FACT THAT YOU'RE SELLING THE CD CHEAPLY AND SOME OF YOU HAVE FAMILIES, ETC., SUGGESTS THAT THE BAND IS MORE OF A FUN/HOBBY THING THAN SOMETHING YOU'RE TRYING TO DO FULL-TIME.
Not really, the reason we're selling the CD cheaply is because basically Lord Skaman doesn't exist anymore. It was only £6 when we were going but there's no point in trying to get £12 for it because who in their right mind is gonna pay that for a band they may have only seen a couple of hours ago before they actually go and buy it from you at the gig. Being realistic, most people can't afford CD's anyway, so no way is anybody gonna pay £12 or even a tenner or even 8, so we sold quite a few at 6, or even a fiver sometimes if we were a bit too pissed to give them change, so I think £4 now that the band doesn't exist. I'm still very proud of the CD, it's well worth it. Most of us do have families, and we've all got mortgages and all that kind of stuff. I think a couple of years ago it was very serious, when this CD came out we were trying our best to do something with it, but also you've got to be realistic. At the moment our engineer's talking to a guy who's putting a label together, and maybe he can put us a Scam album out on CD or if he can do anything for us that would be fantastic, but again it's out of our hands really. It's certainly not a hobby, it's more than that, but it ain't full time obviously because you've got to live and pay your mortgage.

WHAT SORT OF RESPONSE HAVE YOU HAD TO THE CD? I HEAR YOU EVEN HAD SOMETHING PLAYED ON STEVE WRIGHT ON RADIO ONE - HOW DID HE PICK UP ON IT?
Yes, it was played on Radio One on Steve Wright's show, possibly twice, I'm not sure. I know they mentioned us a couple of times in Radio One's gig guide for the weekend. Our manager sent him one on a Monday and by the Thursday he played it! I don't know why he picked the track that he did, personally I think they just had a search through it and pressed random play. I don't think he is a ska fan, I think it was a guy called Richard who was sort of the man behind the show, I think he did it. We had a good response to the CD, people wanted it, we sold quite a few locally and in Nottingham and what have you. We've also been played on Piccadilly Radio in Manchester, Radio Sheffield, Radio Derby - we've done interviews for them and they used to play us quite a lot actually.

DO YOU AGREE THAT THE GENERAL PUBLIC SEEM TO LIKE SKA MORE THAN THE MEDIA REALISE? (FROM PUTTING ON GIGS IT SEEMS TO BE VIEWED AS A FUN NIGHT OUT & PEOPLE WILL COME EVEN IF THEY'VE NOT HEARD THE BAND BEFORE, AND WHEN SKA-BOOM WERE ON THE BIG BREAKFAST RECENTLY EVERYONE SEEMED TO LIKE THEM.)
I'm sure they do, like I said before it's a very non-offensive, good, fun type of music. I did see Ska-Boom on The Big Breakfast. They were always fucking idiots in 1990 and they've just got dafter, but right nice guys.

WHAT ARE YOUR CURRENT ACTIVITIES - RECORD, GIG, ETC.-WISE? (YOU CAN USE THIS BIT TO APPEAL FOR MORE GIGS IF YOU'RE AFTER THEM!)
We've recorded an album called 'Stereo Dogs', it just needs mixing but we can't get into the studio until June the 1st I think, because the engineer has had to move premises, they've booted him out because the people that own the building want to do something else - make more money from it I suppose. So we're setting one up as we speak, bang in the middle of Chesterfield town centre, so as soon as it's wired up and the desk's in we can go and mix it. And then we can start looking at getting it out, but it will only be on cassette at first anyway, maybe one day on CD I really hope, but they're very expensive to press, you're looking at 500 minimum which is gonna cost about £1,000, whereas cassettes if you were left with a load you could always record over them or whatever. Plus if you do them yourself, if you have a one-off CD pressed you can actually make your own cassettes from it, - play it on your own CD player, and if you've got a good amp and a good tape deck you can make your own, stick your own label on and away you go, and make as many as you want per time. We certainly want more gigs - we want fucking tons if we can get them! We've just been sorting ourselves out band/line-up wise. The singer declared last Sunday that he didn't want to do it any more and I've been talking him round. He's been doing this for six years and I think he just wanted a bit of a rest, but we don't, so we've got to move his arse and get him going!

ANYTHING I'VE MISSED OUT THAT YOU'D LIKE TO MENTION?
Not really, I can't tell you much more, but I just wanna wish you luck with your fanzine and thanks for helping us and wanting to interview us, and we can try and help sell your fanzine for you if you want at gigs, no problem. We used to have Lord Skaman T-Shirts but we sold them all and there's no Scam T-Shirts or anything yet, we just want to get going properly, we've only done two gigs this year I think but we've just confirmed two gigs which are:-

FRIDAY 28th JUNE - CHESTERFIELD QUEENS PARK HOTEL
and SATURDAY 10th AUGUST - CHESTERFIELD THE ATTIC

Thanx, Lee.

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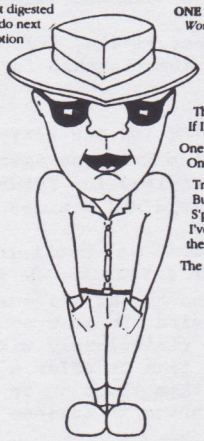
(For band contact address see review of Lord Skaman LP in Record Reviews section)

SOME DAY SUNDAY
Words and Music by Andrew Richard, Lee Stomper

Well I went to the building society cash machine
Like the advert first suggested
But I got so bored in a short time
When me cashcard got digested
The advert never said what to do next
It was like some duff promotion
So I'm standing here with me ticket in me hand
Waiting to ride boredom locomotion

Cos it's Sunday bloody Sunday soon be bloody Monday morning
Sunday's bloody boring it's so boring to me
repeat

The Sunday drivers are going so slow
Not putting peddle down with their boot
But at least their occupied somehow
With their driving pursuits
There's never no news of escape from a zoo
Of big black vicious panther
So I'll sit down here with me colour supplement
Cos it seems like the only answer



ONE DAY NEXT WEEK
Words Andrew Richard / Mick Reilly, Music Andrew Richard

Well I know that you don't even know my name
But I've just shook the dice and I've started the game
You say you've seen this before and you don't wanna know
I want to collect two hundred pounds and pass go

The stakes are higher but the prizes get better
If I had your address I would write you a letter

One day next week, a night when there's not much on television
On a telephone speak, or I could send you a carrier pigeon

Tryin' to get a date with you is like nailing snow to a ceiling
But I feel I got to say something just to loose this wanting feeling
S'pose I better turn it in now, call you bluff and throw this hand in
I've lost too much the cards were stacked against me put it down on the table as your win

The stakes are higher etc

Okay, if you're not into footy you might want to skip this bit.

But imagine you've had a bang on the head, you come round not sure where you are or what day it is. The question you most dread being asked is probably.....

ARE YOU HOWARD WILKINSON ?

1. Knowing that your top striker is about to leave the team to play in the African cup for a month, with a small squad do you:-
   a) Invest in a top quality striker, maybe shrewdly looking to Eastern Europe and get an international on loan.
   b) Use it as a golden chance to put in a promising youngster.
   c) Sell his obvious replacement to Coventry and see if there are any unwanted over 35 ex-Sheffield Wednesday players you can get on loan instead.

2. You've paid £1 million to rescue David Rocastle's career but Gordan Strachan is keeping him out of the team. Do you:-
   a) Try one of them on the left, seeing as how the team don't have a natural left winger.
   b) Sell him to a team who can make use of him.
   c) Say how it's unfortunate we've no room for two right sided midfielders, and then swap him for David White - a right sided midfielder who you'll later be able to loan free of charge to a Sheffield club.

3. You have potentially the best player in the premiership, but he only speaks French and you're not getting on. Do you:-
   a) Try and sell him abroad so at least no other English team benefits from him.
   b) Sell him to an English club, but make sure they're not one likely to win anything or one the supporters particularly dislike.
   c) Sell him to your closest rivals, thus enabling them to win an otherwise unobtainable championship for the first time in 25 years.

4. Your main source of scouting for new players is:-
   a) Close contact with a top European agent.
   b) Scouring the lower divisions for future internationals.
   c) A day return to Sheffield and a visit to the treatment room.

5. You have an England international midfielder who being a local lad makes him the obvious crowd favourite. Do you:-
   a) Make sure you hang onto him at all costs.
   b) Sell him to the team with the most money, but only after you've upped his price ridiculously with hard bargaining.
   c) Sell him to the first team to offer a bag of peanuts. - Who cares if that enables them to go on to win the league next year, now you'll be able to bring in someone from Sheffield Wednesday as his replacement.

6. The most satisfying moment of your managerial term of office at Leeds to date is:-

   a) Pipping 'The Scum' to the championship.
   b) Carlton Palmer scoring from outside the box against Wimbledon.
   c) Getting beaten 6-2 at Hillsboro'.

7. The first thing you do after arriving at Leeds is take down the pictures of the Revie era from near the tunnel. This is because:-

   a) The club should stop living on past glories and create it's own new historical chapter.
   b) Carlton Palmer will keep banging his head on them.
   c) You've some aerial photos of Sheffield that would look nice up there.

8. You're thinking of changing the club song played before games as the record has become very scratched. As it's replacement, do you have in mind:-

   a) A medley of "We Beat The Scum 3-1" and "Always Look On The Bright Side Of Life".
   b) "Atmosphere" by Russ Abbot.
   c) "If It's Wednesday, It Must Be Wednesday" by the Sheffield Wednesday first team squad.

9. Your 'dream team' defence consists of:-

   a) Gary Kelly, Alan Hansen, Tony Adams, Stuart Pearce.
   b) Ronnie Rosenthal, Rudd Gullit, Darren Peacock, Julian Dicks.
   c) Mel Sterland, Chris Whyte, Nigel Worthington, Paul Beesley.

Mostly a)'s - Come in Mr.Revie

Mostly b)'s - Quit while you're ahead - open a chain of sports shops or something.

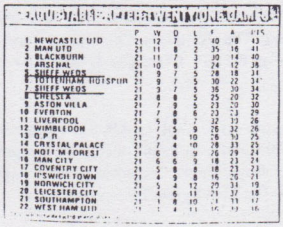
Mostly c)'s - Fancy the England job Howard?

Not sure yet? :-

David Rocastle has always played best:-

   a) On the right.
   b) On the left.
   c) On the bench.

Tomas Brolin has always played best... etc,etc.



	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
1 NEWCASTLE UTD	21	12	7	2	40	18	43
2 MAN UTD	21	11	8	2	35	16	41
3 BLACKBURN	21	11	7	3	30	14	40
4 ARSENAL	21	10	6	3	24	12	38
5 SHEFF WEDS	21	9	7	5	28	18	34
6 TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	21	9	7	5	30	22	34
7 SHEFF WEDS	21	9	7	5	35	30	34
8 CHELSEA	21	8	8	5	25	20	32
9 ASTON VILLA	21	7	9	5	23	20	30
10 EVERTON	21	7	8	6	23	23	29
11 LIVERPOOL	21	5	8	7	32	33	26
12 WIMBLEDON	21	7	5	9	26	32	26
13 Q P R	21	7	4	10	26	30	25
14 CRYSTAL PALACE	21	7	4	10	28	33	25
15 NOTT M FOREST	21	6	6	9	26	29	24
16 MAN CITY	21	6	6	9	18	23	24
17 COVENTRY CITY	21	5	8	8	18	23	23
18 IPSWICH TOWN	21	4	9	8	16	26	21
19 NORWICH CITY	21	5	4	12	29	34	19
20 LEICESTER CITY	21	4	6	11	21	37	18
21 SOUTHAMPTON	21	1	8	10	[illegible]	33	17
22 WEST HAM UTD	21	1	4	11	[illegible]	33	16

Left: conclusive proof that our man Howard is an infiltrator from down south (Sheffield), intent on turning Leeds into a second Wednesday. The clip comes from Today newspaper in the 94/5 season, so it looks like they were just a bit premature.

play-maker, could dominate the midfield exchanges with support from Tomas Brolin, a class player who has disappointed Wilkinson by passing too much and is therefore not certain to start.

FANZINE REVIEWS

[These are ones we've received since the last issue]

U.K. zines:

DO SOMETHING Issue 3 (£1 + SAE: Sean, 18 Markstown Close, Cullybacky, Ballymena, N.Ireland, BT43 5PX.) Sadly the last issue as Sean is now working on a book about Northern Irish punk. Interviews with The Cho-zen (Arthur Kay), Sad Society, Fork Hunts, American TV Cops, Incognito Records, Arthur of The Lurkers.

BRITISH Oi! Issue 37 (£1 + SAE: P.O.Box 249, Derby, DE21 9EG.)
Long-running RAC/Patriotic/Nationalist zine, concentrating on music rather than politics. Interviews with Rahowa, Storm, Razors Edge.

CONTROL! Issue 5 (£1 + SAE: Stuart, Box 999, 26a Hooks Hall Drive, Dagenham, Essex, RM10 7BL.)
Interviews with English Dogs, Rancid, Contempt, Capo Regime, Down By Law, plus Exploited and Argy Bargy out-take interviews with additional stuff not used in their videos. Rammed with other stuff as usual, my only complaint is the print's far too small which means I can only read it a bit at a time, but Stuart doesn't seem to want to budge on that. I look forward to the Rejects out-take interview promised in issue 6.

THE SKINHEAD Issue 4 & Issue 5 (£1 + SAE each: Paul Jameson, 3b David Road, Norton, Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland, TS20 2EY.) Developed to a really high standard now this zine, tho' it's been funny to see Paul's gloating over Boro's league position gradually evaporate over the months, now he's so desparate that a post-League Cup Final 1-0 win at Leeds is seen as a success! And we had a centre half in goal for the 2nd half and still they couldn't score! The words 'barn door' and 'couldn't hit a' spring to mind. Issue 4 interviews The Templars, Bim Skala Bim and Boisterous, while issue 5 has Skaface, Distortion, Rough Kutz and their 1995 readers poll (!)

H.A.G.L. Issue 26 (60p + SAE or US$2 overseas: Trev, 57 Briardene, Burnopfield, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, NE16 6LJ.) 'The UK's Longest Running Punk/Oi! zine' it sez here. Succeeds in being genuinely funny whereas many fanzines just think they're funny, which makes it a good read despite the editor's limited knowledge of music! Interviews with Ex-Cathedra, Oxymoron, Fork Hunts, Spithead and Roddy Oppressed, and an unmissable front cover drawing. Also does a 2nd-hand punk/Oi! record list at non-rip off prices.

GIVE IT A BLAST! Issue 1 (50p + SAE: Ralph, 1 Ashfield Drive, Belfast, BT15 3FT, N.Ireland.)
First fanzine to arrive that's younger than this one! Ralph promises issue 2 will be bigger and much improved but there's nowt much up with this. Really good interview with Stuart of Control! on the putting together of 'Oi! The Video', plus ones with Crashed Out & Kev ex-Pressure 28 + a German 'scene' report off the editor of Moloko Plus zine.

PROBLEM CHILD Issue 10 (£1 + SAE: Paul, 487 High Street, Harlington, Middx, UB3 5DL.)
Interviews with Special Duties, Who Moved The Ground, Tribute To Nothing, Earache Records. Much raved about in some quarters, I'm afraid the style of writing just lost my interest pretty quickly, aside from that it's well put together and a real fat bastard of a fanzine. Much of it's DIY punk reviews which I don't find particularly interesting, but if you're into the sort of bands it covers I'd definitely recommend it. Crashed Out do win their demo tape contest so perhaps they just need introducing to more real music?

Foreign 'zines written in English:

AWAKE Issue 3 (100BF + IRC: Kjell W., P.O.Box 17, 9050 Ledeberg 1 (Gent), Belgium.)
Skinhead/Oi!/RAC zine, really jam-packed with stuff, too many interviews to mention - mainly foreign and mainly RAC bands but does include Condemned 84 and stuff on Hammer Records.

CARRY ON Oi! Issue 1/96 (£1 + postage: P.O.Box 855, 30-960 Krakow 1, Poland.) Not sure how long this zine's been going, but this is the first issue to be done in English. Interviews with The Templars, Distortion, Ramzes, Chelsea, Macc Lads, Laurel Aitken, Vibrators, Lurkers, Arthur Kay, Bob Helen Of Oi!, + features & live and other reviews.

Oi! 95 Issue 3 (£2 or US$3 for Europe, US$4 for America: John Sogaard, Astridsvej 7, 4 sal, Lejl 9, 8220 Brabrand, Denmark.) Apolitical Oi!/skin/punk zine, this is the first issue done in English and as a result due to the language barrier some bits are a bit brief. Interviews are with The Templars, Booze Boys, Fuori Controllo (Italian band), Condemned 84, ADL 122 (Italian), and there's Section 5 live in Stockholm & The Last Resort live in Belgium.

Foreign 'zines written in foreign: (all in native language unless stated)
ON THE DOCS Issue 4 (2DM + postage: Alex Hahn, Bahnhofstr.4, 79206 Breisach, Germany.)
Zine which has stopped production now, and this is the last issue but still available I think. Interviews are with Lowenbois, Blank Estoc, Retch Records and SOS Bote fanzine.

STOMPING BULLDOG Issue 1 (5DM ?+ postage?): O.Stadtmuhlgasse 4, 91781 Weissenburg, Germany.)
Wow! Of all the zines I've received this one's got me really jealous. Completely professional layout, computer done and all that including photos, really big and closer to a magazine/book than a fanzine. Only problem for me is it's in German so I can't understand most of it! Interviews (which all look pretty detailed) are with Condemned 84, Mother's Pride, Panzerknacker, Loaded, Anti-Heroes, Pressure 28, Kro-Men, Split Image, Invaders, Peter of Pure Impact zine and the Walzwerk lads, plus Bad Manners live. All this and the editor promises improvements for issue 2 tho' it looks pretty near perfect already to me. An absolute must if you can read German.

INFO RIOT Issue 4 (2DM + SAE in Germany or 4DM including postage elsewhere: Spiller, Friedenstr.41, 46045 Oberhausen, Germany.) Interviews Oi!-Melz, Blanks 77, Evil Conduct, Klaxon, and what looks like a really good one with Saxby of The Last Resort/Warriors, plus Short & Curlies live and some fat bastards with their beer bellies out.

RAGNAROCK Issue 10 (Dunno the price; : Bjorn Detlef, Schumacherstr.7, 52062 Aachen, Germany.)
Not a fanzine as such, but an attempt to catalogue every Oi! related 7" release anywhere, ever! An absolutely brilliant reference book, which includes catalogue no.'s, release dates, and in many cases numbers pressed including test pressings! Includes nationalist and punkier Oi! stuff as well, and an extra section on 12"/LP's/CD's by French bands (+ the intro page is in French). Not sure how much it costs so write first with an IRC. This one's from 11/94 and a new updated one including stuff released over the past year or so is in the pipeline.

L'AVENIR INCERTAIN Issue 4 (5.00F : Simon Yoann, 10 Champ de L'epine, 61100 La Selle La Forge Normandie, France.) Interviews with The Business, Infraktion, Skanxters, Bullshit, Kidnap. Written in French, but I know some French, me, so I can decipher most of this. So it's a pity this is the final issue. But instead the editors have started producing a monthly newsletter called 'Quoi De Neuf Docteur?', which, providing I'm translating properly, is free with a self-addressed envelope and an IRC, or 20F for a 6-issue subscription if you live in France.

ANGELS WITH DIRTY FACES Issue 1 (1,50DM + postage: Torsten Ritzki, Markscheide 36, 45143 Essen, Germany.) More incomprehensible German for me, contains stacks of reviews and band profiles, and lyrics to The Addicts "This Is Your Life" along with what looks like the guitar chords but contains an 'H' chord (?!) in it so fuck knows what's going on there!

Newsletters:

KEEP THE FAITH No.2 (Free w/SAE/IRC and you also get One Stop's fantastic mail order list: One Stop, P.O.Box 184, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0ZS.) Aims to come out every 6 weeks, which will be brilliant if Toast can pull it off (ho-ho!) as the only problem with it so far has been that half the gigs listed have already gone.
PURE IMPACT No.1-March, No.2-April & No.3-May (Free w/IRC: Pure Impact, P.O.Box 4, 1082 St.Agatha Berchem 2, Belgium.) Issue 20 of 'Pure Impact' fanzine was also the last, and all back issues are now sold out. In its place Peter has started a mail order service and a monthly newsletter. If you send an SAE/IRC you'll get a current copy of both. The newsletter contains gen on various skinhead happenings, publications, etc. Around the world, and it is intended that each will contain an interview. March's is with former Freicorps singer Kai, April's with ADL 122 and May's is with S.D.F. (Skins De France). The mail order service is CD only at the moment, mainly nationalist & RAC type stuff, tho' there is also non-political stuff and even in the other direction stuff like recent Oppressed releases. They have copies of the new Business single (allegedly), and also Skrewdriver's 'We've Got The Power' live album which has just been re-released on CD with extra demo and live tracks.

Good work for charity:
Sean ex-of Do Something zine is writing a book on Northern Irish punk and new wave from 1977-82, and would like to hear from anyone who has any obscure records or is knowledgeable on the subject. You can contact him at the address shown for his zine.
We also heard from Mr.Bazzy who used to do a punkzine called 'Blown To Bits' in the 1980's which I've never heard of but then again I was probably too busy collecting World Cup '82 stickers to have heard of fanzines at the time, anyway he's planning to bring it back and start again at issue 18 and would like to hear from anyone who'd like to contribute to it, especially if you can draw. If you write to him at: Bazzy, 58 St.Bartholomews Drive, Ordsall, Salford, M5 3SH, he'll no doubt also send you a list of some records he put out back then and still has a few copies left of, and which I've alsonever heard of, which may or may not be why he still has some left.

RECORD REVIEWS

ALBUM OF THE YEAR SO FAR:

THE WARRIORS - 'THE FULL MONTY' (Step-1 STEPCD 083)

Bullseye. But not without a shaky start. After the unconvincing first track "Free Reggie Kray" I was fearing the worst. Let's face it, this LP had a lot to live up to, but the only killer punch about the opening song is how great it is to hear Saxby's voice again.
Things pick up slightly with "The Last Refuge", but it's "Sawdust Caesar" where they really get into gear, and from then on it's a real blinder of an album. I was surprised, no, make that blown away by the musical style, which is more along the lines of Sparrer than the old Resort. I wonder how much this is down to Daryl Smith who currently moonlights in both bands. Anyone expecting 'Skinhead Anthems Part 2' can forget it, this is the real sound of Oi! 1996 style. We get "Them And Us" ("One Law For Them" updated), "Big Brother Is Watching You" about government introduction of CCTV in the name of security, "Mothers In Arms" about single mums who take the easy option, and the storming "Modern Screen" which kicks off with the killer opening lines "It was a Marlon Brando morning, and a James Dean afternoon/ He had a few to drink and began to think he'd been the first man on the moon". Any bands thinking of stringing together 'beer drinking', 'boots & Levis' and 'having a laugh and a say' and claiming a relevant Oi! record please take note. But the pick for me comes with "Gary Bushell", which hits the nail right on the head and gives him the long overdue credit for what he put into the movement, still remembering to give him a dig for his later activities. It's an absolute corker. (Oi! The National Anthem?) Almost as good is "All Quiet On The Preston Front" which is about weekend warriors and t.v. programmes, and then the band have a laugh with the closing knees up of "Holiday Songs". In the past couple of years The Business and Sparrer have defied the odds to deliver albums which match their past classics. This one's up there with them. Cheers big ears.

COCK SPARRER - 'RUNNING RIOT IN '84' (Captain Oi! AHOYCD 57)
Sparrer's second album gets the Captain Oi! treatment. You know how good it is musically, and presentation-wise this particular issue adds the Oi! Album cut of "The Sun Says" and there are full lyrics included as well.

THE BURIAL/SKIN DEEP - 'A DAY ON THE TOWN/MORE THAN SKIN DEEP' (Step-1 STEPCD 081)
Two bands who came out of a time warp in the mid/late 1980's and went straight back there. If you've not heard either band it's a hard task to try and describe their sound as there's no obvious reference point. Kinda pop-y/ska-y/soul-y/guitar-y/brass-y/semi-acoustic type of thing; -see, I told you! A lot of the songs have a split melancholic/celebratory 'when we were young' feel, although surely neither band can have been all that old when they recorded these? The general view on Skin Deep seems to be of the 'should've been massive' variety, many people citing the success of the Housemartins to back this up. To me their 'More Than' LP isn't quite a classic but has a nice unique feel to it and knockout lyrics; "It goes more than skin deep/ It's not just a passing phase". An inspired choice as a 'back-to-back' as I would say if you like one you'll like the other, and even if you don't it's still pretty essential for the Burial song "Changes", which is a lost classic. One minor complaint, why no sleevenotes boss?

BIG 5 - 'POPSKATIC' (Step-1 STEPCD 079)
Centre stage Nick Welsh and Jennie Belle Star. Or "features members and ex-members of Bad Manners, The Specials, The Selecter, & The Belle Stars" sez the cover. Features 5 new studio songs and many live covers, it's certainly no classic but sounds like a fun time was had by all, and of the studio tracks "Shame" demands repeat playing.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'THE CRAZY WORLD OF PUNK' (Step-1 STEPCD 072)
VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'THE CRAZY WORLD OF SKA' (Step-1 STEPCD 074)
In the absence of any background info on these two compilations I'll assume everything has been released before, so they're really like when one of your mates does you a compilation tape of some of their favourite songs. Most are studio recordings, with the odd few live tracks (including some which aren't actually listed as being live) and serve as samplers of Step One's punk/ska catalogue and so would I guess appeal to the occasional listener rather than someone who's gonna buy loads of punk or ska releases anyway, or someone planning a party who can't be arsed getting up and changing the CD every five minutes.

THE ADICTS/VICE SQUAD - 'LIVE AND LOUD' (Step-1 STEPCD 077)
Another 2-in-1 Live & Loud winner, coupling together two relatively similar bands which is always a nice touch. The Adicts set is 14 songs from 1982, and the Vice Squad one is 12 tracks including a cover of the Pistols "EMI". Doesn't say where and when it's from but I seem to remember it's from Eugene in the States.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'Oi! THE RARITIES VOL.4' (Captain Oi! AHOYCD 58)
Volume 4 of arguably the best idea in years, by the best-dressed label around. As usual you get all the B-sides too so there's no incomplete collection to worry about. Possibly the least rare and the least Oi! sounding of the series so far, so musically not completely to my taste. The best thing about these collections is the possibility of discovering a classic you'd never heard before, and this time it's Demob's "No Room For You" which is absolutely blinding. Other bands featured are The Crack, Intensive Care, Special Duties, Red London, Splodge, Anti-Establishment and Distorted Truth.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'Oi! WE ARE THE BOYS' (Step-1 STEPCD 078)
"Looks nice, but lacks strength in depth Brian." Great to see an Oi! Compilation with the bands coming from such diverse places as Portugal, Slovakia and Stoke-On-Trent. Pity about some of the unimaginative and "not very Oi! in my opinion" U.S. stuff, but elsewhere some new bands give very good accounts of themselves. Like Mata Ratos from Portugal, my first taste of Portugese Oi!, and Stoke's Destination Venus, who weigh in with the great "Big Trev" and the slightly disappointing "UFO". But pride of place has to go to Klasse Kriminale who stand out like Tomas Brolin in a team of long-ball specialists with their "La Ragazza Dalla T-Shirt Degli Angelic Upstarts". In the absence of any translation I'll have to guess that it means either "I Wouldn't Be Seen Dead In An Angelic Upstarts T-Shirt" or "My Most Prized Possession Is My Angelic Upstarts T-Shirt". Or maybe "What The Hell Was That Kid In The Angelic Upstarts T-Shirt Doing In A Morrissey Video?!".

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'TOTAL ANARCHY' (Step-1 STEPCD 084)
'Total Anarchy' is a compilation which originally came out in 1982, and Step One's re-issued version contains 10 extra bonus tracks to the original. The bands featured are External Menace, One Way System, Uproar, Antisocial, The Fits, Chaotic Youth, and Death Sentence, none of which I know all that much about, so I can't tell you whether the songs were exclusive to this LP or not I'm afraid. A good range of bands to suit people into that there anarcho though.

ANTI-PASTI - 'THE BEST OF' (DOJO CD 230)
Anti-Pasti were at the more melodic end of the 'apocalypse punk' bands, and in the early 80's were hugely popular. I remember "No Government" being voted about number 4 in Sounds 'all time punk top 100' and tho' lyrically it sounds a bit dated now ("No Maggie Thatcher and No Government"), they recently reformed so maybe there'll be some "No John Major" songs coming soon. This 16-track 'best of' spans their 1980-84 incarnation.

PLASMATICS - 'COUP D'ETAT' (DOJO CD 239)
The Plasmatics were always fun, had a few good songs, but were always more important as an influence on other bands. I know many girls in American bands who say Wendy O'Williams attitude was a big influence on them. (And also a big influence on Max Splodge who claims to have written "Crabs" following an encounter with her.) Plus she was handy with a chainsaw and could do a neat trick with a ping-pong ball.

THE ADICTS - 'THE BEST OF THE ADICTS' (DOJO CD 263)
Not having heard much of their stuff before, when this dropped through the door I was disappointed that my fave song "Who Spilt My Beer" wasn't included. A 20-track best of which seems to span most of their career, and with sleeve notes by Mark Brennan. I came away liking this a lot more than I expected to.

THE LONG TALL TEXANS - 'A FEW TEXANS MORE' (DOJO CD 262)
I get the feeling I'm being sent this due to the lack of psychobilly/rockabilly fanzines in the U.K.!, so forgive me if I just quote from the press release and say that it's 10 studio and 10 live tracks and is in effect a 'best of' compilation which includes some stuff on CD for the first time, and musically it's more Stray Cats than Meteors. Most notable for me was that they cover the Golinski Brothers little-known classic "Bloody" in their own style and get it nearly as good as the original, which is some achievement.

SHAM 69 - 'TELL US THE TRUTH' (DOJO CD 256) / 'THAT'S LIFE' (DOJO CD 257) / 'THE ADVENTURES OF HERSHAM BOYS' (DOJO CD 258) / 'THE GAME' (DOJO CD 259)
A major event in Dojo's re-issue programme, here come the first four Sham 69 albums on CD. For me Sham were important at the time 'cos, unlike most of the other bands on these pages, they were on t.v. regularly. So I had every Sham 7" single I could find on Saturday morning trips to the market and the likes of Woolies and Boots. Imagine my surprise years later to discover they actually made albums as well! This meant I'd been missing out on tracks like "Rip Off", "They Don't Understand", "What Have We Got", "That's Life" and "Poor Cow", gems in their own right and, I'd imagine, just as important as my singles were to people who were a few years older and old enough to have seen them live. In terms of presentation, Dojo have done an excellent job. There's a few bonus tracks (except on 'That's Life' which would've spoiled its concept) and top draw sleevenotes relating to each album by Jimmy and Dave (musings on life from Jimmy, what type of amplifiers were used from Dave). According to Jim, Sham meant HerSham not SkinHeads At Margate, "Hersham Boys" was the best song they ever wrote, U2 ripped them off, and a lot more besides.
These 4 albums came out between 1978 and 1980. Since then Jimmy has spent years trying to recapture the energy and the passion and the importance of these records in a variety of styles. I'll leave it up to you to judge how successful he's been but this is the real deal. So just the way they arrived, Sham burst in and out. Jimmy Pursey, this is your life.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'PUNK LIVES - LET'S SLAM' (Step-1 STEPCD086)
Being blunt, I'd say this was awful. In fairness it's the type of music I've never gone for. A 2-in1 reissue of LP's I didn't know existed til I looked them up (1986 + 1987), and of bands I've only ever heard of one. To be honest I wouldn't notice if one of the songs was thrown in twice. Some Discharge is great, but this makes them sound like the London Philharmonic. I make a point of listening right through compilation albums just incase there's an undiscovered classic somewhere, but I could only manage 1/3 of this before I had to take it off. The Political Asylum track was O.K. More review in the next issue?

THE ELITE - 'ODDS AND SODDS' (Step-1 STEPCD 082)
From the Andrew Lloyd-Webber of Oi! stable, this is basically The Elite's 'Where Now' demo tape, plus some stuff. According to Daryl, so many people have been asking him for copies of that demo so here it is, accompanied by his extensive sleeve notes on the band's career. "More To Love" is my favourite on here, and is just one long chorus. Some of it suffers from the obviously budget production, but then again, a lot of it doesn't. Cum on feel the noize.

BOOT PARTY - 'HEADSTOMP' (Step-1 STEPCD 085)
Uncompromising is I think the word. 22 Tracks in 36 minutes so you can tell it's gonna be hardcore with Oi! influences (see sub-1 minute "A.C.A.B." cover), and not completely humourless either (see "Sugar Sugar" cover), but the singer is called Ramone and therefore obviously in the wrong band! A switch to 'da brudders' and the chance to become "Ramone Ramone" is too good to miss out on. I have mates who think the first Black Flag album is a work of complete genius who I imagine would like this, but I always have to leave the room whenever they try to play it to me.

THE OPPRESSED - 'MUSIC FOR HOOLIGANS' (Step-1 STEP CD 080)
Surprisingly, some of this is really good. Despite hating their 'comeback' covers LP ('We Can Do Anything'), despite ignoring the subsequent stuff due to the foolish charities they run after, despite both the first two tracks here sounding like "Harry May", despite more uniform Oppressed cover versions (though at last they hit upon the one they were made for and it's the Neurotics/Members "Living With Unemployment"), there are five other new songs here worthy of anyone's attention - "Same Old Story", "Skinhead Times", "When I Was Young", "No Justice", and "Hooligans" - at least two or three of which are completely brilliant. Then there's more covers and political stuff, which are either rubbish or I'm biased and can't tell, but if this is to be their swansong then just for a few moments here, they were on fire again.

RED ALERT - 'BREAKING ALL THE RULES' (Dojo DOXO DCD 240)
Really strong new studio album from Red Alert, plenty of singalong anthems and some slower ones which makes for a neat variation. If you liked their 'Blood Sweat & Beers' and 'Beyond The Cut' LP's then you'll love this. Weighs in at over 70 minutes long with 13 new originals plus covers of The Clash's "Safe European Home", The Ruts "West One" and By Jovi's "Blood On Blood" (oh dear). First 3,000 come with a bonus 13-track 'live in the studio' CD which spans their whole career. Unfortunately the CD player took a disliking to it and it won't play so I can't tell you what it sounds like yet.

MAJOR ACCIDENT - 'CRAZY' / 'TORTURED TUNES' (Dojo LOMA CD 43)
Great value for money release for Major Accident fans this, as it couples their 1985 studio album 'Crazy', along with 'Tortured Tunes' which is a 1983 live set and includes such favourites as "Hokey Cokey" & "Breakaway". It's on mid-price too, so another welcome re-issue from Dojo here.

BAD MANNERS - 'EAT THE BEAT' (DOJO CD 248)
Re-release for Manners 1988 LP with a new cover and 5 bonus tracks including "Johnny's Knee" and "How Big Do You Love Me" from the French 'Skinhead' compilation CD, and 3 songs from the "Gonna Get Along Without You Now" Bluebeat single. And the new cover photo? Well if I tell you it involves Buster, and some baked beans you can use your own imagination.

THE LAMBRETTAS - 'AMBIENCE' (DOJO CD 219)
This is the band's second album, originally from 1981, and now re-issued for the first time on CD with 4 extra tracks from B-sides of their later singles. I always liked the Lambrettas but to be honest their best stuff was on their first album 'Beat boys In The Jet Age', and I would imagine this would appeal to mod revival collectors rather than the casual listener as the title 'Ambience' is very apt and the songs lack the killer punch of stuff like "Da-a-ance" and "Another Day Another Girl".

JOHNNY THUNDERS - 'THE STUDIO BOOTLEGS' (DOJO CD 231)
For those not in the know, Thunders was originally the guitarist in the New York Dolls and was a major influence on most of the original punk bands including the Clash and the Pistols. 'The Studio Bootlegs' veers between doctored live tapes and demos of Thunders alone with an acoustic guitar. Essential for Thunders afficianadoes, but hardly likely to win many new converts. Mostly, it's brilliant by the way.

VARIOUS ARTISTS - 'Oi! THE SINGLES COLLECTION VOL.1' (Captain Oi! AHOYCD 60)
Set to confuse anyone collecting the 'Oi! The Rarities' compilations, here comes 'Oi! The Singles Collection'. Any collection which starts off with the 4-Skins debut single, and follows it with the first Business one is a sure-fire winner, and you also get early singles by Red Alert, Blitz, Sparrer, The Oppressed, Partisans, Infa-Riot, One Way System and Major Acident, so follow that K-Tel. Some superb music and a real neat booklet, and listening to it now, how come no-one ever seems to mention the 4-Skins "Brave New World" (b-side of "One Law For Them"), as it's surely one of the greatest songs ever written?

LORD SKAMAN AND THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN - 'TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE' (GHCD 1)
Not a new release, but I only just came across it recently, and as I ain't seen it reviewed anywhere else I thought you should be made aware of it. It's an album full of catchy upbeat ska, great rhythm, plenty of addictive choruses, some ace lyrics, and an energy to get you moving. You can tell they had a good time recording it and it rubs off on the listener. It's ska with enthusiasm and pop influences - at times they even reminded me of the Kinks circa "Come Dancing", and a whole lot better than the current Specials or Suggs solo efforts. What's more the remaining copies are on offer dead cheap at just £4 plus postage (cheques payable to "Andrew Birchall") from:- Lee, 20 James Street, Stonegravels, Chesterfield, S41 7JE.

LABEL ADDRESSES:
CAPTAIN Oi! - P.O. Box 501, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP10 8QA.
DOJO - P.O. Box 281, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 2BB.
STEP-1 - P.O. Box 21, Tenterden, Kent, TN30 7ZZ.

THIS IS OI!

To the uninitiated - Oi - is merely a two-lettered, single syllable - Cockney word.. Quaint and expressive, yet meaningless....

But to those in the know it represents the embodiment of all that is the British working class experience. It's just Pure attitude - It can be everything from the snarling and rabid dog of street fights and football hooliganism, to the lamentive plea of someone crying into their beer. It's as diverse as our life-style is. Seeped in street-wise history from the anti-heroes of infamous London gangsters like the Krays, the Sabatinis, the Richardsons. To the more accessible personalities who lead the Street and football gangs of the current day.

It's about having nothing, yet still burning twice as brightly as anyone else inspite of this. It's the booming echo that rolls around the decaying concrete canyons that we call housing estates, yet you'd know as "The Projects".

It's about being young - being alive, being in yer face...Fuck the system - It's about believing in yourself, knowing that you're being something a bit special - It's not a compromise or a cop out. It's not about towing the line. The teachers, Police and Government never tell us the Truth - it was and is bands like Sham 69, Cockney Rejects, Madness, The Specials, The 4-Skins and The Business. These are the ones who blaze the trail and raise the banner....Showing that nothing has more potential than youth itself. - Nothing!

So after all is said and done

It's just pure reality!

Steve Goodman 1996

Poet
Novelist
Journalist